

Times

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51

YEARS OF LEGACY

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HM the Sultan issues
two Royal decrees

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

Royal Decree No. (84/2026) on appointing non-resident ambassador.

Article (1) appoints Sayyid Yarub bin Qahtan bin Nasser Al Busaidi, the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, as Oman's non-resident Am-

bassador to the Republic of Tajikistan.

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. (85/2026) on ratifying the International Cooperation Agreement signed in Geneva on 19 May 2026 between the Ministry of Education in the Sultanate of Oman and the European

Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) concerning scientific and technical cooperation in the field of high-energy physics.

Article (1) ratifies the aforesaid agreement in accordance with the version attached to this decree.

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and take effect from its date of issue. — **ONA**

FOURTH EDITION

4TH EDITION

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2026

Times of Oman Business Leadership Summit 2026 to address leadership in an era of unprecedented change

MUSCAT: Organised by Muscat Media Group and Gulf Leaders Circle, the 4th edition of the Times of Oman Business Leadership Summit and Awards 2026 will bring together over 200+ senior government officials, business owners, C-level executives, SMEs and industry experts for discussions on reshaping the business landscape. The Summit will be held on 26 October 2026 at JW Marriott Hotel Muscat.

Under the theme 'Business Leadership in an Era of Unprecedented Change', the Summit will also focus on geopolitics and global trade, business resilience and risk, AI and emerging technologies, digital business transformation, new growth and investment opportunities, economic diversification, competitiveness and sustainable growth, future-ready leadership and talent and organisational and workforce transformation.

'Oman at the Crossroads'

The programme will feature the keynote session 'Leading Through Global Disruption', exploring geopolitics, global trade and business resilience. The panel discussion 'Oman at the Crossroads' will examine Oman's strategic position and investment opportunities. The expert session 'Navigating Change' will focus on AI, digital transformation and future-ready leadership.

The event will conclude with the presentation of the prestigious Times Business Leadership Awards 2026 to recognise business leaders, entrepreneurs, CEOs, innovative SMEs and outstanding companies whose achievements are driving economic growth, fostering innovation and setting new benchmarks for business excellence.

Award categories will include Business Leader of the Year, Entrepreneur of the Year, Young Business Leader of the Year, Woman Business Leader of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award, SME of the Year and Company of the Year, along with a range of sector-specific recognitions celebrating leadership and organisational excellence.

Meaningful dialogue

The Times of Oman Business Leadership Summit and Awards 2026 will provide a platform for meaningful dialogue, knowledge exchange and networking among Oman's business community, while recognising the leaders and organisations helping shape a resilient, competitive and future-ready economy.

For more information on speaking opportunities, partnerships, awards and table/seat reservations, contact: Syed Amir Saleem: syed.amir@tevents.om | +968 78471944 Sanjeev Rana: sanjeev@tevents.om | +968 9722 1630

HM'S VISIT TO BOTSWANA
TO OPEN NEW ECONOMIC,
INVESTMENT HORIZONS

Botswana officials described His Majesty the Sultan's visit as historic and comes at a time of growing momentum in relations between Oman and Botswana

GABORONE: A number of officials in the Republic of Botswana have affirmed that the state visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Republic of Botswana on Wednesday, carries strategic diplomatic and economic dimensions of paramount importance to the Botswanan side.

This visit, they have affirmed, will elevate bilateral relations from the stage of foundation-laying to broad economic and investment horizons.

Amangwe Madisekwana, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Botswana in the State of Kuwait and Supervisor of the Republic of Botswana's relations with the Sultanate of Oman, said that this visit is historic for Botswana. Its historical significance lies in the fact that over the past year, the trajectory of relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Botswana has witnessed remarkable acceleration, thereby reinforcing the bonds of friendship and mutual trust between the two sides.

He added that this visit comes at a time when the Republic of Botswana is striving for economic diversification across multiple vital sectors, including mining and energy.

Earlier this year, the Sultanate of Oman and Botswana signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of renewable energy, which culminated in the establishment of a massive solar power plant in the Maun region of Botswana.

For his part, Timo Donald Ntobo, Executive Director for Export

Development and Promotion at the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre, said that this visit affords Botswana an opportunity to deepen its economic relations and promote economic diversification across various sectors with the Sultanate of Oman, including agriculture, financial services, energy and mining.

He added that reciprocal visits and the swift execution of projects bolster economic diversification efforts, enhance the added value of natural resources, and establish manufacturing industries in Botswana, which is richly endowed with natural resources such as copper, diamonds and coal. This, in turn, opens up investment opportunities for the Sultanate of Oman that yield benefits for both countries.

The Sultanate of Oman, under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, is pursuing economic integration through international partnerships aimed at promising markets, including the Botswanan market, proceeding from a clarity of political vision and economic orientation, with Oman Vision 2040 serving as the compass towards economic leadership. — **ONA**

HOSPITALITY SECTOR

Oman's hotel count jumps 43% to 1,475

Times News Service

Times Exclusive

HOTELS BY GOVERNORATES

313 SOUTH AL BATINAH
271 MUSCAT
209 AL DAKHLIYAH
207 SOUTH AL SHARQIYAH
114 DHOFAR
104 NORTH AL SHARQIYAH
97 NORTH AL BATINAH
66 AL DHAHIRAH
41 AL BURAIMI
39 AL WUSTA
14 MUSANDAM

modation capacity comes as Oman continues to strengthen tourism as a key contributor to economic diversification, with a growing hospitality network supporting domestic and international visitor demand.

The hotel landscape remains dominated by establishments outside the conventional star-rated categories.

Of the 1,475 hotels, 1,246 were classified as 'Other', while 77 carried a two-star rating, 73 were three-star properties, 48 were four-star and 31 were five-star hotels.

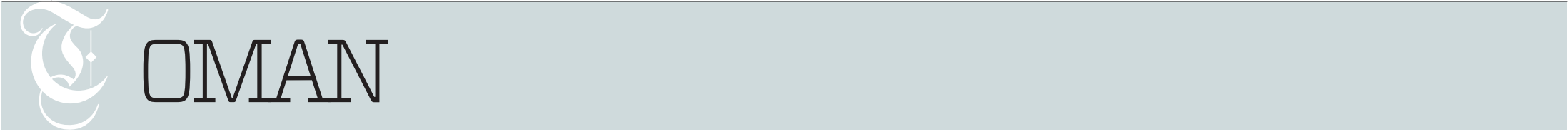
The expansion has also translated into a larger workforce.

the sector's workforce.

Hotel revenues also recorded strong growth, climbing to OMR359 million in 2025 from OMR293.4 million in 2024, an increase of 22.3%.

The figures point to a hospitality sector expanding on multiple fronts: accommodation capacity has grown rapidly, revenues are rising at a solid pace and employment has increased alongside the expansion.

With South Al Batinah now leading the country in hotel numbers, the distribution also highlights the growing importance of governorates outside the traditional tourism centres. Muscat remains a major hospitality market, but the breadth of hotel activity across Al Batinah, Dakhliyah, Dhofar and the Sharqiyah governorates suggests a more geographically diversified tourism economy.



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COMMENTARY

Would Reading Dostoevsky Change Someone’s Mind?

I have a WhatsApp group of literary friends where conversations often travel through novels, poetry, philosophy, writers and the strange complexities of human nature. Interestingly, whenever our discussions become deeper—when we speak about suffering, morality, guilt, freedom, faith or the contradictions within human beings—one name appears again and again: Fyodor Dostoevsky.

Some admire him passionately, some question his darkness, and others compare his ideas with modern psychology and philosophy. This article, therefore, is partly a reflection of those conversations and debates. They have repeatedly made me wonder: Would reading Dostoevsky actually change someone’s mind?

My curiosity grew further after watching several discussions on YouTube in which Dr. Jordan Peterson speaks about Dostoevsky and his extraordinary understanding of suffering, responsibility, morality and human psychology. What fascinates me is how Dostoevsky transforms suffering into something more than sadness.

For him, suffering becomes a window through which we observe pride, conscience, faith, resentment, love and the desperate human search for meaning.

by Mohammed Anwar Al Balushi

Reading Dostoevsky, therefore, is not simply reading literature. It sometimes feels like entering a courtroom where the accused, prosecutor, witness and judge are all voices inside the same human mind.

His major works constitute an extraordinary journey through that mind: *Poor Folk*, *The Double*, *The Village of Stepanchikovo*, *Humiliated and Insulted*, *The House of the Dead*, *Notes from Underground*, *Crime and Punishment*, *The Gambler*, *The Idiot*, *The Eternal Husband*, *Demons*—also translated as *The Devils* or *The Possessed*—*The Adolescent* and *The Brothers Karamazov*.

His shorter works include such memorable titles as *White Nights*, *A Gentle Creature*, *The Dream of a Ridiculous Man* and *The Crocodile*. Different stories, different characters, yet behind

them stands almost the same enormous question: What does it really mean to be human?

Crime and Punishment examines crime, conscience and whether an intellectual theory can place someone above ordinary morality.

The Brothers Karamazov takes us through faith, doubt, family, responsibility and the existence of evil.

The Idiot places goodness and innocence inside an imperfect society. *Demons* explores ideology and what can happen when ideas begin possessing people rather than people possessing ideas. *The Gambler* exposes obsession and weakness, while *White Nights* captures loneliness, imagination and unfulfilled affection with remarkable tenderness.

But *Notes from Underground*,

Perhaps this is why Dostoevsky continues appearing in literary WhatsApp conversations, university discussions, philosophical debates and modern YouTube lectures. He died in 1881, yet the psychological problems he examined have not disappeared.

almost arguing with himself. It made me realise that Dostoevsky did not need a battlefield to create conflict. The battlefield was already inside the human mind.

The Underground Man is uncomfortable because we may occasionally recognise fragments of ourselves in him: pride mixed with insecurity, intelligence mixed with self-destruction, the desire to be understood combined with the impulse to reject those who might understand us.

His underground, therefore, is not merely a location. It is a metaphor for those hidden rooms of consciousness where resentment, loneliness, humiliation and wounded pride survive.

This may explain why people’s opinions about Dostoevsky remain so strong. Some regard him as one of history’s greatest psychological novelists. Others find him dark, exhausting or excessively concerned with suffering. Both reactions are understandable. Dostoevsky rarely allows us to remain comfortable observers. He pulls the reader into the argument.

Raskolnikov makes us question crime and justification. *Prince Myshkin* makes us reconsider innocence. Ivan Karamazov challenges comfortable answers about faith and suffering. *The Underground*

Man attacks our confidence in rational behaviour. Dostoevsky’s characters do not merely ask, “What do you believe?” They seem to ask something more dangerous: “Would you still believe it if you had to live through its consequences?”

Perhaps this is why Dostoevsky continues appearing in literary WhatsApp conversations, university discussions, philosophical debates and modern YouTube lectures. He died in 1881, yet the psychological problems he examined have not disappeared.

So, would reading Dostoevsky change someone’s mind? Perhaps not by converting one opinion into another. Dostoevsky does something more profound: he makes certainty uncomfortable. After reading him, it becomes harder to divide humanity neatly into good and bad, strong and weak, rational and irrational.

Perhaps great literature does not change our minds by providing new answers. It changes us by making our old answers inadequate.

We close Dostoevsky’s book, but somehow Dostoevsky does not close the conversation with us.

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TWO MISSING

RNO evacuates 23 crew of Panamanian-flagged tanker

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Maritime Security Centre (MSC), in coordination with relevant Omani authorities, is monitoring the towing of the Panamanian-flagged oil tanker EL GAIA to a port in Oman.

The operation follows the successful extinguishing of a fire that

broke out in the vessel’s engine room after it was targeted 1.3 nautical miles northeast of the Musandam Governorate.

A Royal Navy of Oman vessel evacuated 23 crew members from the tanker, providing them with medical care, while search operations remain ongoing for two crew members who are still missing.

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Oman allocates OMR20 million to strengthen vocational colleges

The Ministry of Labour is advancing vocational education to sharpen the skills of nationals and meet labour market needs



MUSCAT: The allocations for the Vocational Colleges System Development Plan for the period 2026–2030 have reached approximately OMR20 million.

This drive reflects a strategic approach towards strengthening the institutional and training infrastructure of these colleges and enhancing their capacity to prepare and qualify national cadres in alignment with the requirements of economic and professional sectors.

The Ministry of Labour has affirmed that the vocational colleges sector is receiving a great attention in terms of developing the training and qualification system and enhancing its responsiveness to future labour market requirements.

During the first half of 2026, the vocational colleges implemented 71 training programmes and courses, benefiting 1,062 participants. In addition, five cooperation programmes were signed with relevant entities, and six institutional policies were approved, thereby contributing to the development of the educational and training environment, the strengthening of institutional partnerships, and the enhancement of programme quality and training practices.

The Ministry indicated that the Human Resources Development sector's activities during the first half of 2026 encompassed several domains, including organisational structuring and job classification, human resources development, professional colleges system development, training and professional accreditation, administrative follow-up and service development, quality assurance and change management, as well as the development of the private training institutions system — all of which reinforce the integration of



roles across the various pathways associated with human capital development.

In the domain of organisational structuring and job classification, the Ministry stated that the Directorate General of Organisational Structuring and Job Classification processed 1,462 requests for job placement, status modification, and service transfer during the same period.

It also completed 1,014 transactions in the area of job classification and 423 transactions for the settlement of employment statuses. The Ministry noted that the Directorate conducted 66 organisational studies and projects aimed at developing organisational structures and improving the job classification system, in line with

government work requirements and the evolving dynamics of the labour market.

These efforts contribute to enhancing the efficiency of distributing mandates and responsibilities, optimising the utilisation of human resources, and strengthening the capacity of government entities to respond to job-related and organisational needs.

In the domain of training and professional accreditation, the Ministry reported the issuance of 83,000 professional practice licenses and the accreditation of 350 professions under the professional accreditation system.

This forms part of ongoing efforts to regulate professional practice, raise compliance with professional standards and re-

quirements, and enhance the quality of competencies operating across various professions.

Furthermore, 13,246 jobs were linked to the National Competency Framework, with the framework applied across 24 government entities and the Human Resources Matrix implemented in 63 entities.

This enhances the alignment of jobs with required skills and competencies and supports the development of human resource management tools in accordance with methodologies linked to efficiency, and performance.

The Ministry indicated that these efforts contribute to advancing the transition towards a more competency-driven system by identifying the skills and capabilities required for job roles, support-

ing workforce planning processes, and developing training and qualification pathways — thereby enhancing the readiness of national competencies for current and future labour market requirements.

The Ministry explained that 917 cases were processed through the “Wusool” system, contributing to the delivery of services and the fulfilment of the needs of 12,607 beneficiaries.

The Ministry further stated that it continues to implement programmes and initiatives aimed at promoting a culture of performance and institutional development.

A total of 3,823 employees benefited from awareness workshops on job performance, while 541 employees participated in the In-

stitutional Excellence System, thereby reinforcing awareness of performance concepts and linking job practices to institutional objectives and outcomes.

The engagement rate with the artificial intelligence pilot application reached 70%, with the participation of 350 employees — an indicator reflecting the growing interest in leveraging modern technologies to develop the work environment and utilize AI applications in task execution, procedural improvement, and performance efficiency enhancement.

The Ministry stated that work is underway on the “Approved Credit Balance for the Professional Diploma” project, aimed at enhancing confidence in the training programmes offered and supporting the quality of training outputs, in addition to developing the regulatory frameworks governing the operations of private training institutions and enhancing their capacity to deliver programmes aligned with labour market needs.

The Ministry reported that the completion rate of the Private Training System Development Project reached 23%, while the completion rate of the Investment Environment Enhancement Project reached 10%. These efforts are part of the Ministry's endeavours to develop the private training sector, improve its regulatory and investment environment, and strengthen its role in supplying the labour market with the required skills.

The Ministry of Labour affirmed that these indicators underscore the Ministry's approach towards building an integrated human resources development system founded on investing in competencies, developing skills, and improving the work environment. - OMA

SELF-DETERMINATION

Oman reaffirms support to rights of Palestinian people

GENEVA: The Sultanate of Oman reaffirmed its firm position supporting the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their independent, sovereign state on the 4 June 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

Oman emphasised that supporting the Palestinian economy is not merely a response to the current crisis, but an investment in peace, stability, and the future of the entire region.

This came in Oman's statement before the 73rd session of the Trade and Development Board – UNCTAD on Agenda Item 6 concerning the report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people, delivered by Idris Abdulrahman Al Khanjari, Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations and International Organisations in Geneva.

Al Khanjari expressed the Sultanate of Oman's support for the statement presented by the delegation of the State of Palestine on

behalf of the Arab Group, as well as the statements presented by the Group of 77 and China, and the Asia-Pacific Group.

He stated that the figures presented in the report clearly reflect the scale of the economic and humanitarian catastrophe facing the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where nearly 92 percent of economic establishments in the Strip have been destroyed or damaged, while recovery and reconstruction needs are estimated at about USD 16.2 billion.

He explained that these are not merely figures and economic indicators, but represent destroyed establishments, job opportunities, income sources, and livelihoods, which collectively constitute essential requirements for a dignified life and for rebuilding a sustainable developmental future for the Palestinian people.

Al Khanjari added that the UNCTAD report demonstrates beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Palestinian economy faces today a deep and unprecedented



crisis, which has sharply intensified since October 2023, under the restrictions imposed on the Palestinian economy and the resulting weakening of its capacity for production, trade, and investment, as well as the erosion of the foundations of its growth and sustainability.

He pointed out that reconstruction should not be viewed merely as a process of physical rebuilding, but rather as an integrated developmental and humanitarian project closely linked to protect-

ing the Palestinian individual and safeguarding their right to a dignified life, particularly in light of the sharp deterioration in food security levels and livelihoods.

He stated that the Sultanate of Oman stresses that addressing the impacts of the economic crisis in Palestine cannot be limited to treating its direct consequences, but must address its root structural causes, including the continuation of the Israeli occupation and the resulting control over resources, imposition of restrictions

on the movement of persons and goods, disruption of economic and commercial activity, and undermining of production and development foundations, which prevents the Palestinian people from building a sustainable and self-reliant economy.

Oman's Representative emphasised that recovery and reconstruction require a comprehensive and sustainable international response that goes beyond providing emergency assistance to rebuilding infrastructure, restoring productive capacities, supporting the private sector and small and medium enterprises, reactivating commercial movement, enhancing the resilience of the Palestinian economy, and creating the necessary conditions to achieve long-term recovery and growth.

He also affirmed that the Sultanate of Oman attaches importance to UNCTAD's continued role in providing objective economic analysis, technical assistance, and building Palestinian national capabilities, in a manner that complements the efforts of

the United Nations system and the international community, thereby contributing to enhancing the capacity of Palestinian institutions and the economy to face current challenges and prepare for the recovery and rebuilding phase.

Al Khanjari noted that reconstruction and sustainable development cannot be separated from achieving a just and lasting peace, and that economically and developmentally empowering the Palestinian people requires addressing the causes impeding their ability to achieve sustainable development.

Idris Abdulrahman Al Khanjari, Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations and International Organizations in Geneva, expressed his thanks to the UNCTAD Secretariat for its report on assistance provided to the Palestinian people, and for its continuous efforts in monitoring economic developments, providing technical assistance, building capacities, and supporting the resilience of the Palestinian economy. - OMA

MEETINGS

Foreign Minister receives envoys to bid them farewell



MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received on Tuesday Dr. Mohammad bin Nasser Al Hajri, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Sultanate of Oman, to bid him farewell upon the end of his tour of duty. During the meeting, Sayyid Badr expressed his appreciation for the efforts made by the Ambassador,

which contributed to strengthening fraternal relations between the two countries, wishing him continued success in his future duties. The occasion was attended by Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashel Al Maskari, Head of the GCC Department, Najib bin Yahya Al Balushi, Head of the Protocol Department, and a number of officials



from both sides. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, also received yesterday Dr. Muhammet Hekimoglu, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to the Sultanate of Oman, to bid him farewell upon the end of his tour of duty. The Foreign Minister praised the efforts exerted by the Amba-

sador in strengthening ties of relations between the two countries, wishing him success in his upcoming assignments. The occasion was attended by Najib bin Yahya Al Balushi, Head of the Protocol Department, and a number of officials from both sides. Furthermore, Sayyid Badr bin



Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received on Tuesday Warunee Pan-krajang, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Sultanate of Oman, to bid her farewell at the end of her tour of duty. The Foreign Minister commended the efforts made by the Ambassador in strengthening bilateral relations between the two

countries, wishing her continued success in her future assignments. The occasion was attended by Najib bin Yahya Al Balushi, Head of the Protocol Department, Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al Hosni, Head of the Asia and Pacific Department, and a number of officials from both sides. -ONA

Khoula Hospital performs new breast cancer surgery

The new services align with the hospital's drive to consolidate comprehensive care for breast cancer patients, right from the stage of diagnosis, through to the surgery and the post-treatment stage



Surgery at Khoula Hospital, said in a statement that breast cancer surgeries typically involve two key components: addressing the breast tumour itself and identifying axillary sentinel lymph nodes. These measures, she observed, aim to facilitate the development of appropriate treatment plans tailored to the condition of each patient. She pointed out that the Endomag-Sentimag system integrates two essential functions of breast cancer surgery into a single device: It utilises magnetic technology ("Magseed" magnetic seeds and "Magtrace" magnetic fluid) to locate non-palpable breast tumours and sentinel lymph nodes—the first time such a technology is implemented in the Sultanate of Oman. She explained that the technology realises the precise localisation of non-palpable tumours during surgery, allowing the surgeon to accurately eliminate the target area while at the same time preserving healthy tissue and of-

fering an integrated approach to breast cancer surgery. The magnetic system serves as a practical alternative to traditional techniques that rely on metal surgical wires to locate non-palpable tumours or radioactive materials to identify sentinel lymph nodes. This simplifies the procedures undergone by patients, from diagnosis to surgery, and minimizes the need for coordination with external services, thereby saving time and effort, while at the same time enhancing surgical efficiency. Speaking about the breast prosthesis service, Dr. Sarah explained that it specifically targets patients who have undergone a mastectomy (the removal of full or a partial resection required to achieve symmetry), as well as patients who do not wish to undergo breast reconstruction surgery or are unable to undergo the same. Dr. Sarah said, "The service goes beyond merely providing a cosmetic product. It is an integral part of comprehensive post-

breast cancer surgery care. The prostheses and recovery aids offer a variety of options regarding size, shape, weight and comfort; thus it helps restore external symmetry and physical balance following surgery." She also added that the system includes products designed for the early post-operative stages, like post-surgical bras and soft prostheses—which provide comfort and support while protecting the sensitive surgical area during recovery. Dr. Sarah affirmed that localizing these services marks a milestone in the transition from a focus on tumour treatment to a model of comprehensive care for breast cancer patients, notably in view of the local disease burden. The latest GLOBOCAN data from the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer show that breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the Sultanate of Oman, she said. She added that combining modern technologies enhances surgical precision and safety. The service contributes to improving the quality of care and lays emphasis on the welfare of patient, rather than just capitalising on the tumour. Localising these services constitutes part of the efforts made by Khoula Hospital and the Ministry of Health to bolster breast surgery services and expand access to modern medical technologies. These initiatives align with the goals of Oman Vision 2040, which seeks to enhance the efficiency of healthcare services and place the patient at the heart of the healthcare system. -ONA

CDAA holds meeting to boost performance



MUSCAT: The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) held a senior management review meeting for the Quality Management System (ISO) at the Directorate General of Ambulance, chaired by Maj.Gen Sulaiman Ali Al Husaini, Chairman of the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority, and attended by officials concerned with the implementation of the system within the Authority. The meeting addressed a number of topics aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the quality management system and developing performance levels, thereby contributing to elevating the quality of ambulance services and achieving higher levels of efficiency and sustainability in their delivery. The meeting reviewed the results of the internal audit of the quality management system, improvement opportunities, the adequacy of resources, the results of beneficiary satisfaction measurement, the effectiveness of operational performance and its measurement indicators, as well as the risks, opportunities, challenges, and variables that may affect the



effectiveness of the system. The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority continues its efforts to elevate the quality and efficiency of ambulance services through the implementation of the ISO 9001 Quality Management System, strengthening the continuous improvement approach, and raising the efficiency of institutional performance. The meeting comes in preparation for the upcoming external audit phase and in continuation of the Authority's efforts to implement the requirements of the quality management system, thereby enhancing its institutional readiness and consolidating a culture of quality and continuous improvement within the ambulance services framework. -ONA

WORLDFOOD MOSCOW

Oman takes part in Moscow exhibition to diversify exports

MOSCOW: The Sultanate of Oman's participation in the "WorldFood Moscow 2026" Expo commenced yesterday in the Russian capital, Moscow, with the involvement of a number of Omani companies. This forms part of efforts aimed at strengthening the presence of national products in international markets, opening new export channels for Omani companies, and building trade partnerships with importers and distributors in the Russian market and neighbouring markets. Oman's participation in the exhibition aligns with the Sultanate of Oman's strategic approach towards diversifying export markets and leveraging specialised international exhibitions to showcase national products and the capabilities of Omani companies. It also provides them with the opportunity for direct engagement with buyers, importers, and distributors, as well as gaining insight into market trends, consumer requirements, and available commercial opportunities. Mohammed Khalaf Al Hamdani, Export Promotion Specialist at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Supervisor of the Omani Pavilion at the exhibition, stated that par-



ticipation in WorldFood Moscow represents a significant opportunity to enhance the reach of Omani products into the Russian market and to open new horizons for national companies to build sustainable trade and export partnerships. He added that the Omani Pavilion serves as a platform for direct communication between national companies and importers, distributors, and representatives of business sectors, thereby contributing to raising awareness of the quality and diversity of Omani products and exploring the opportunities available to them in the Russian market and interconnected markets. He explained that the participation aims to achieve tangible outcomes that go beyond product pro-

motion, through conducting direct business meetings, understanding market entry requirements, exploring contracting and distribution opportunities, and assisting Omani companies in building a network of trade relationships that supports the growth of their exports and their expansion into international markets. In his turn, Khalil Abdullah Al Balushi, General Manager of Land Ports and Business Development at Al Madina Logistics Services Company, affirmed that the company's participation stems from its role as a logistics partner for the Omani companies participating in the exhibition, providing integrated logistical support and ensuring the timely delivery of products and shipments in accordance with the

highest standards of refrigeration, quality, and supply chain efficiency — thereby guaranteeing that Omani products arrive in a manner that reflects their quality and competitiveness. He added that WorldFood Moscow represents an important platform for exploring new avenues of logistical and commercial cooperation, noting that during the exhibition the company is exploring opportunities to provide international freight forwarding, customs clearance, warehousing, and distribution services to Russian and Omani companies, thereby facilitating the movement of food products and various goods and opening direct and efficient logistical corridors between the Sultanate of Oman and Russia. For his part, Ayman Hamad Al Hadhrami, Regulatory Affairs Manager at the National Biscuit Manufacturing Company SAOG, stated that the company's participation aims to explore new markets for its products and to engage with accredited agents and distributors in the Russian market, thereby contributing to enhancing the distribution of the company's products and expanding the scope of its export operations. He explained that the company offers a diverse range of biscuits,

snacks, and wafers, and enjoys a broad export presence reaching more than 40 countries, particularly in the Gulf, African, and Levantine markets, in addition to recently expanding its export operations to the United States and Canada. Hilal Sulaiman Al Ghuraibi, Manager of Golden Herb Company, stated that the company's participation in WorldFood Moscow aims to open the Russian market to its products and to raise awareness of Omani products among importers, distributors, and retail chains, as well as to seek agents and trade partners capable of enhancing the reach of the company's products to Russian consumers. On his turn, Al Azhar Hamoud Al Hinai, Executive Director of Bin Ahmed Plastic Industries Projects, affirmed that participation in WorldFood Moscow is not limited to displaying products, but rather represents an opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of the Russian market and customer needs, and to build direct relationships with new importers and distributors. He added that the company currently exports its products to a number of countries and aspires through its participation to expand its export scope and reach the Rus-

sian market and neighbouring markets. He noted that following the exhibition, the company will follow up with interested clients, provide samples and appropriate commercial offers, and initiate trial orders that pave the way for building sustainable export relationships. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, represented by "Oman Exports," continues its efforts to enhance the competitiveness of Omani non-oil exports and expand their presence in regional and global markets by empowering Omani exporters, exploring markets with promising opportunities, and organising participation in international trade exhibitions and events, as well as facilitating communication with international importers and buyers and building sustainable trade partnerships. "Oman Exports" also works to support national companies in accessing new markets and diversifying their export destinations, and to raise awareness of the quality and competitiveness of Omani products — thereby enhancing their standing in global markets and increasing the contribution of non-oil exports to economic diversification, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. -ONA

Forum highlights efforts to enhance child protection

The papers also covered skills for dealing with abused children, counseling intervention and rehabilitation



SOHAR: The Ministry of Social Development, represented by the Directorate General of Social Development in the North Al Batinah Governorate, organised yesterday the second edition of the Child Protection Committees Forum in the governorate, under the theme “Safe Childhood.”

Mohammed Humaid Al Kalbani, Director General of the Directorate General of Social Development in the North Al Batinah Governorate, explained that the forum aims to spread awareness of children’s rights and enhance community partnership.

It also seeks to highlight national efforts and institutional partnerships aimed at achieving a safe childhood and strengthening the social security system in alignment with Oman Vision 2040.

He pointed out that child protection in the Sultanate of Oman has become a national necessity

to ensure sustainable development and social cohesion. He affirmed that the enactment of the Child Law and the formation of child protection committees across various governorates embody the Sultanate of Oman’s commitment to creating a safe environment that enables children to grow healthily, innovate, and participate effectively.

He further indicated that child protection efforts are centered on risk prevention, enhancing family and community awareness, and protecting children in cyberspace. This is in addition to fostering integration among the family, the school, and legal, social, and health authorities.

The forum included the presentation of seven specialised working papers that addressed the statistics of child protection committees for the year 2025, the management of child protection cases, and the legislative and legal aspects of protecting children

from the risks of the digital environment.

The papers also covered skills for dealing with abused children, counselling intervention and rehabilitation, the impact of parental conflict on the child, and the establishment of a unified protocol for all child protection committees.

The forum was held under the auspices of Mohammed Sulaiman Al Kindi, Governor of North Al Batinah, in the presence of Sheikh Rashid Ahmed Al Shamsi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development for Family and Community Development, alongside several heads and members of child protection committees in the Sultanate of Oman.

The forum witnessed general discussions on the presented working papers, in addition to honouring the members of child protection committees from various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

40 trainees graduate from job replacement programme

MUSCAT: The Authority for Public Services Regulation yesterday celebrated the graduation of 40 trainees from the second cohort of the Employment-Linked Replacement Programme, which was implemented through the Knowledge Network Academy in cooperation with Nama Water Services Company.

The graduation ceremony was held under the patronage of Dr. Mansour Talib Al Hinai, Chairman of the Authority for Public Services Regulation and Head of the Governance Committee for Operation and Local Value Added in the Public Services Sector.

The programme aims to qualify national competencies and equip them with the professional skills and knowledge required to work in the water sector, through a training pathway directly linked to actual job opportunities, culminating in the graduates’ appointment to permanent employment con-



tracts with Nama Water Services Company.

The programme embodies a practical approach to linking training with employment by aligning qualification programmes with labour market needs and the requirements of technical and specialised positions, thereby enhancing the readiness of Omani cadres to enter the sector and increasing their contribution to the water services operation and management system. The programme also forms part of efforts aimed at strengthening Omanisation and developing local content in the public services sector, through investing in national human capital, expanding sustainable employment opportunities, and building competencies capable of keeping pace with the sector’s operational and technical requirements. -ONA

Details of Second Child and Family Forum unveiled

MUSCAT: The details of the Second Child and Family Forum were revealed during a press conference held at Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday.

The form will be held under the slogan “Every Child is an Ambassador.” It is scheduled to be held at Al Sahwa Park from 1 to 18 October, with the participation of a number of entities and institutions concerned with children and families.

The forum targets children, families, educational institutions, government and private entities, as well as persons with disabilities and communities residing in the Sultanate of Oman, through a diverse programme of events, competitions, and initiatives that promote community participation



and support talent discovery and skills development.

The forum aims to provide an integrated experience that combines purposeful education and recreation, innovation, and cultural openness, and to reinforce the family’s role as an essential partner in the child’s learning and development journey. -ONA

LITERARY CREATIVITY

Winner students honoured

SALALAH: Oman Writers and Literati Association, in cooperation with the Directorate General of Education in Dhofar Governorate, yesterday celebrated the honouring of student winners of the Literary Creativity Award for School Students in its third edition.

The ceremony, held at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences in Salalah, was held under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar.

The competition targeted students from public and private schools as well as students of special education, distributed across three categories: The Junior category (Grades 1–5) in the field of poetic recitation; the Young category (Grades 6–9) in the fields of poetic recitation, classical Arabic public speaking, and short story



writing; and the Youth category (Grades 10–12) in the fields of literary text analysis (poetry), short story writing, and classical Arabic poetry composition. -ONA

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NO	Tender Number	Description of Tender	Last date to collect the tender	Tender return date
1.	PRE-26-107	Design & Build Upgrade of Roundabout at Salam Street LOT 3	04/10/2026	25/10/2026
2.	PRE-26-061	Design & Construction of Mountain Slope Stabilization Works in Darsait (Re-Call)	22/09/2026	30/09/2026
3.	PRE-26-138	Database Administration Support for MM	04/10/2026	25/10/2026
4.	PRS-26-054	Supply Of Fertilizers For Oman Obtanic Garden	22/09/2026	30/09/2026
5.	PRE-26-139	Supply Of Underground Cable Fault Detectors	04/10/2026	25/10/2026
6.	PRE-26-140	Street Light Feeder Pillar Works	04/10/2026	25/10/2026
7.	PRE-26-141	Application Support For Etamid (Phase 2)	04/10/2026	25/10/2026

1. Bidders shall submit their offers electronically.

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OMAN ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY CONFERENCE

Forum to highlight issues related to electricity and energy sectors

MUSCAT: The 5th edition of Oman Electricity and Energy Conference (2026) is set to begin on 12 October 2026. Hosted by Nama Electricity Distribution Company, in cooperation with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the event aims to highlight key issues related to the electricity and energy sector.

The conference, scheduled to bring together 5,000 participants from the Sultanate of Oman and abroad, will highlight future prospects for electricity generation and distribution, explore the evolution of wireless power transmission via ultrasonic waves and review updates in electricity storage and recovery during periods of high demand.

Speakers at a press conference held on Tuesday at the premises of Nama Electricity Distribution Company affirmed that Oman Electricity and Energy Conference 2026 will showcase the latest



global technologies in electricity production and power generation and distribution.

The event will also address global challenges in the field of electricity production and the optimal use of natural resources for the generation of power.

Eng. Khalfan bin Nasser Al Bartamani, Chief Commercial Officer at Nama Electricity Distribution Company, said that the press conference, organised jointly by the

company in cooperation with the IEEE, aimed to outline salient features of the 5th edition of Oman Electricity and Energy Conference.

Al Bartamani added that Oman Electricity and Energy Conference has seen remarkable development, by addressing key themes like energy transmission tracks and grid resilience, in a bid to underline the Sultanate of Oman's efforts to advance renewable energy, enhance

energy efficiency and storage, drive digital transition, produce green hydrogen and cut down carbon emissions.

The 5th edition will be the largest gathering to date, at it will attract 5,000 professionals from government institutions, regulatory bodies, technology firms, consultancies, research centres and the energy sector at large, said Al Bartamani, noting that the participants will share expertise and explore future solutions to the challenges of generating energy in a smarter, more resilient and more sustainable manner.

For his part, Eng. Abdullah bin Sulaiman Al Wahaibi, Chair of the IEEE Power and Energy Society (Oman Section), said that the conference plays a significant role in advancing Oman's energy ecosystem—by fostering knowledge exchange and supporting the development of the national energy sector. — **ONA**

TAX CONFERENCE 2026

Latest developments and rapid shifts in tax systems reviewed

MUSCAT: The third edition of the Tax Conference 2026, held in Muscat on Tuesday, reviewed the latest developments and rapid transformations in tax systems both locally and internationally, amid wide-ranging participation from international experts, representatives of government entities, the tax and financial sector, and legal and accounting experts.

The conference witnessed the launch of the electronic "Rafid" tax system and the first tax invoice, aimed at developing the tax system in the Sultanate of Oman, enhancing tax compliance, raising the level of transparency in commercial transactions, improving the efficiency of tax procedures, alongside supporting digital transformation

and fostering a more efficient and reliable business environment.

Nasser bin Khamis Al Jashmi, Chairman of the Tax Authority, explained that the conference comes at a time when the tax environment is witnessing rapid developments at both the local and international levels, which imposes the importance of continuing dialogue, exchanging expertise and enhancing communication among the various parties.

He added that the conference acquires particular importance given the vital topics it encompasses, beginning with global developments in the field of the supplementary tax on multinational corporations (Pillar Two), passing through the personal income tax,

and reaching the electronic invoicing project.

Al Jashmi stressed that the success of any tax system does not depend on legislation and procedures alone, but rather requires awareness, clarity, continuous communication, fairness, and mutual trust between the tax administration and taxpayers.

He indicated that the conference represents a platform for enhancing partnership and exchanging visions on ways to develop a clearer and more efficient tax environment, serving the national economy and supporting the business environment in the Sultanate of Oman. — **ONA**

Full story @ timesofoman.com/business

OPENING CEREMONY

MTC opens new facilities

MUSCAT: The Military Technological College (MTC) on Tuesday inaugurated a number of educational and recreational facilities at its campus.

The facilities include an Advanced Cyber Excellence Centre established in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance within the context of a "Partnership for Development" programme.

Learning Resources Centre

The MTC also opened a Learning Resources Centre, a recreational centre and an outdoor plaza (The Boulevard).

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Rear Admiral Saif bin Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman and Chairman of the MTC's Board of Directors.

The chief guest and the attendees listened to a briefing about the new facilities' modern equipment, technologies and programmes, as well as the integrated environment that the facilities provide to the college community in terms of innovation and ongoing development.

The facilities' opening reflects the MTC's constant efforts to enhance its academic, technical and service infrastructure.

It underscores the College's commitment to establish an integrated educational environment that keeps pace with technological advancements and contributes to the realisation of sustainable development goals (SDGs). — **ONA**

AL FALAJ HOTEL

Onam celebrated in Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Nair Family Unity Muscat (NFU Muscat) celebrated its annual Onam festivities with a spectacular two-day programme at The Grand Sphere, Al Falaj Hotel, Ruwi, bringing together thousands of members of the Indian diaspora in Oman in a vibrant celebration of cultural heritage, unity and tradition.

The festivities commenced on September 11 with a formal valedictory function marking the successful culmination of NFU's activities during the year. Shri Pardeep Kumar, Counsellor – Community Welfare, Embassy of India, Muscat, attended the programme as the Chief Guest. Shri Suhail Khan, Chairman, Indian Social Club, Muscat, also graced the occasion as a distinguished guest.

The function was further honoured by the presence of popular Malayalam film actor Shri Niranj Maniyanpilla Raju and acclaimed Malayalam film director Shri K. Madhu, who attended as Guests of Honour.

The formal ceremony was followed by a colourful cultural programme featuring captivating performances by community members. Traditional art forms, classical music and energetic

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IN ALL GOVERNORATES



TRA launches pilot coverage request service

MUSCAT: The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has launched, on a pilot basis, a Coverage Request Service within the Quality System.

This is an electronic service that enables all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman to submit and track requests related to telecommunications services through a unified electronic pathway, thereby contributing to accelerating the processing of requests, improving the level of planning and supporting data-driven decision-making.

The service standardises the mechanism for submitting coverage requests and regulates their flow between the governorates and the TRA.

It also enables comparison of a request with previous or ongoing requests at the same site and in neighbouring areas, monitors cases of duplication or similarity, verifies the existence of current or future projects or plans related to the site and ultimately classifies the request and determines the most appropriate processing pathway for it. The service allows requests to be submitted electronically, specifying their type, requirements, and location, and enables tracking of the completion level and progress rate. It also displays data related to the geographical scope of the request, contributing to the formation of a more comprehensive

view of the needs of the governorates. It provides TRA staff with a dedicated interface for studying and processing requests.

Requests that can be submitted through the service include the establishment of a new telecommunications station, the improvement or enhancement of telecommunications network coverage and internet services, the provision of 5G services, the relocation or removal of telecommunications stations, and the extension of fibre-optic networks, in addition to reports related to vandalism, defacement, or obstruction of the establishment of telecommunications stations, and any other requests related to telecommunications services.

It is worth noting that the Coverage Request Service leverages artificial intelligence technologies to conduct a preliminary analysis immediately upon submission, link it to available technical and geographical data, determine the status of telecommunications services and coverage at the requested site, and verify nearby towers and stations and the technologies available therein.

In its current phase, the service targets the governorates, with the scope of benefit set to expand in the future to include government institutions, economic and logistics zones, and other relevant entities. — **ONA**

Samah Al Rawahi Wins Young Global Omani Professional of the Year Award



Samah Al Rawahi, Communications & Branding Lead at Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), was felicitated with the 'The Origin Young Global Omani Professional of the Year Award' at The Origin – Women Forum & Awards 2026.

The awards presentation was held at JW Marriott Hotel Muscat, bringing together women leaders, professionals, entrepreneurs and changemakers from across Oman and the region.

A communications strategist and digital media specialist, Samah has built a career that combines strategic communications, global affairs and youth engagement. Her professional journey has taken her from Oman to the international stage, reflecting the growing presence and contribution of young Omani professionals in global organisations and conversations.

Beyond her professional roles, Samah has been actively involved in international networks focused



on leadership and youth engagement. She is a World Economic Forum Global Shaper, One Young World Ambassador and member of the British-Omani Society's New Generation Group, reflecting her commitment to connecting Omani perspectives with wider global conversations.

Samah also played an important role at The Origin 2026 as moderator of the panel discussion, "Beyond Expectations: Women at the Forefront of Progress," leading a conversation with prominent women leaders on leadership, resilience, innovation and creating meaningful impact.

The Origin Awards 2026 are instituted by Times of Oman, in collaboration with Muscat Media Group, Gulf Leaders Circle and TEvents. The awards recognise exceptional women, organisations and initiatives making a meaningful impact across industries and communities, while advancing leadership, empowerment, inclusion and progress.

SHURA COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Draft Civil Defence and Ambulance Law discussed with specialists

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Health and Social Affairs Committee at the Shura Council held a meeting on Monday with a number of specialists from the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA), as part of the Committee's review of the draft Civil Defence and Ambulance Law referred by the Government to the Shura Council.

The meeting examined the draft's provisions and articles and heard the Authority's views and observations on the bill.

At the outset of the meeting, the Chairman of the Health and Social Affairs Committee welcomed the specialists from the Authority, underlining the importance of involving relevant and specialised entities in the review of draft laws, given their principal role in implementing legislation and following up on the practical enforcement of its provisions.

He explained that the Committee had deemed it important to hear the views of the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority, as an entity directly concerned with the draft law, and to clarify the regulatory and operational aspects relating to its provisions, with a view to producing more comprehensive and clearer legislative drafting.

The meeting saw a review of a number of articles of the draft Civil Defence and Ambulance Law, with the Committee discussing a range of provisions and articles contained in the draft with the specialists, and raising its observations and enquiries on certain regulatory and procedural aspects.

The discussion also covered a number of topics related to the competencies of the entities concerned and the coordination mechanisms between them, contributing to enhancing the efficiency of the civil defence and ambulance system and raising its

level of readiness and emergency response.

For their part, the specialists from the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority presented their views and observations on a number of articles of the draft law, drawing on the nature of the competencies and duties entrusted to the Authority and the practical challenges associated with their implementation, and explaining a number of the rationales underlying certain proposed provisions.

The meeting forms part of the Committee's efforts to conduct a review of the draft law, by drawing on the views of relevant entities and discussing the various legislative, operational and technical aspects of the draft, thereby assisting the Committee in formulating its recommendations and observations in preparation for completing the review procedures in accordance with the competencies vested in the Shura Council.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Oman and Thailand sign MoU to boost cooperation in energy sector

BANGKOK: The Sultanate of Oman yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in the energy sector. The MoU aims to expand opportunities of partnership and joint investment, facilitate the exchange of expertise and technologies and support the development of the energy ecosystem.

The MoU was signed by Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, and Akanat Promphan, Minister of Energy in the Kingdom of Thailand.

The MoU stems from the two countries shared desire to develop cooperation in the energy sector, consolidate their economic ties and generate broader opportunities for cooperation among their institutions and companies.

As per the MoU, areas of cooperation include encouraging investment, enhancing bilateral



consultation, exchanging policies, technologies and information and developing training, knowledge transfer and the operation of joint energy projects. The MoU lays grounds for "Oman-Thailand Energy Policy Dialogue" which will bring together representatives from the private sector in the two countries.

The dialogue will serve as an institutional platform to identify

joint projects and devise a programme for long-term cooperation and engagement.

The MoU also supports the exchange of training courses and visits of experts to each other's countries, as well as cooperation in the field of research in a manner that contributes to developing the workforce and exchanging knowledge and expertise in the energy sector. — **ONA**

AL HADITHA ENERGY



16 young talented students complete summer internship programme

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Al Haditha Energy celebrates interns' achievements and reaffirms its commitment to nurturing the next generation of national talent in an atmosphere reflecting the importance of investing in young people and equipping them with the skills needed for the future, Al Haditha Energy has marked the successful conclusion of its 2026 Summer Internship Programme, celebrating the graduation of 16 talented students following several weeks of practical learning, professional development and hands-on experience.

Throughout the programme, the interns were immersed in a comprehensive workplace experience, gaining first-hand insight into the realities of a professional environment and contributing to a range of projects and practical assignments across several key functions within the company.

Their experience spanned Human Resources, Finance, Supply Chain, Operations, and Health, Safety and Environment (HSE), with exposure to the company's inland and coastal operations. This broad-based experience gave participants an opportunity to understand how different business functions work together to support operational excellence and sustainable growth.

The programme went beyond classroom-based learning, enabling interns to work alongside experienced teams and contribute to real-world projects and day-to-day activities.

This practical exposure helped strengthen their technical capabilities, broaden their professional perspective and bridge the gap between academic knowl-

edge and its application in the workplace.

A strong emphasis was also placed on developing the core competencies essential to a successful career, including teamwork, effective communication, problem-solving, accountability, commitment and professional discipline.

Reflecting on their experience, the interns expressed their appreciation for the programme and highlighted the support and guidance they received from supervisors and company teams. Their mentorship played an important role in helping participants translate the knowledge acquired through their academic studies into practical skills and professional practices.

The Summer Internship Programme forms part of Al Haditha Energy's broader commitment to supporting and empowering young people, providing meaningful opportunities for students to gain valuable workplace experience, develop their capabilities and prepare more confidently for the next stage of their academic and professional journeys.

As the programme comes to a close, however, the experience marks not an ending, but the beginning of a new chapter. The 16 interns leave with a valuable portfolio of knowledge, practical skills and confidence gained through their time with the company — foundations that will support them as they pursue ambitious careers and seek to make a meaningful contribution to Oman's future.

Congratulations to all 16 graduates on this achievement, with our very best wishes for a future filled with success, distinction and impact.

CIVIL DEFENCE AND AMBULANCE

Warehouse fire brought under control in Al Seeb

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Civil Defence and Ambulance teams responded to a fire that broke out at a warehouse in Al Seeb, Muscat Governorate on Tuesday.

The teams immediately launched firefighting operations

and succeeded in bringing the fire under control.

Cooling operations

They subsequently carried out cooling operations and secured the site, ensuring that the necessary safety measures were completed following the incident.

Honouring Excellence in Social Impact

Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma 2026 honours individuals, organisations and initiatives making a meaningful difference to communities across Oman through their contributions to social progress, environmental responsibility and economic well-being.

Last date for nominations submission
20th SEPTEMBER 2026

Awards presentation
30th September, 2026
JW Marriott Hotel Muscat

AWARD CATEGORIES

- Biodiversity Conservation Initiative
- Environment Protection Initiative
- Environmental Advocacy and Action Initiative
- Clean Energy Initiative
- Community Healthcare Initiative
- Community Education Initiative
- Specially-abled Support Initiative
- Youth Engagement Initiative
- Women Empowerment Initiative
- Financial Inclusion Initiative
- SMEs Development Initiative
- Community Development and Empowerment Initiative
- Public-Private Partnership for Community Development
- Public Engagement Initiative
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiative
- In Country Value (ICV) Initiative
- Outstanding Omanisation Achievement
- Skills Development Initiative
- Social Entrepreneurship Initiative
- Leadership in Sustainable Business Practice
- Leadership in ESG
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The event will showcase inspiring efforts that create lasting community impact and support Oman's broader sustainability and development goals.

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OMAN OIL PRICE RISES

The price of Oman crude oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2026 reaching \$128.48. The price of Oman crude oil rose by 86 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$127.62.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 7,614.87 points, down by -0.20% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.18% at 622.55 points. Sharqiyah Desalination, up 6.06%, was the top gainer while, Al Madina Investments, down 6.10%, was the top loser.

Sur Industrial City offers four new investment opportunities

The announced opportunities focus on four key developments: a medical services centre (private hospital), a specialised training centre, a quarry for backfilling materials, and a fully integrated residential complex



MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) announced four investment opportunities in Sur Industrial City as part of its ongoing efforts to build an integrated and attractive investment environment and drive further investments across industrial, service and logistics sectors, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

Eng. Nasser Hamoud Al Mabsali,

Director General of Sur Industrial City, stated that the announced opportunities focus on four key developments: a medical services centre (private hospital), a specialised training centre, a quarry for backfilling materials, and a fully integrated residential complex.

Al Mabsali elaborated that the medical services centre opportunity involves developing, operating and managing an integrated medical



facility within Sur Industrial City to provide primary healthcare and supporting medical services to the employees of companies operating in the city and residents of nearby areas. He noted that the land area allocated for this project is flexible, with a 30-year renewable contract.

Moreover, the training centre opportunity involves establishing and operating a specialised facility to support industrial and ser-

vice activities, enhance workforce capabilities, and provide training programmes that meet the needs of investors and employees within the city and nearby areas. The land area for this opportunity is also flexible, with a 30-year renewable contract.

Al Mabsali pointed out that the third opportunity incorporates preparing, operating and managing a quarry for backfilling materials within Sur Industrial City on an area of 45,000 sqm and under a three-year contract. Additionally, the fourth opportunity involves developing, operating and managing an integrated residential complex to meet the growing demand for accommodation services for the companies operating in the city. The project shall comply with HSE requirements and Oman Energy Association standards. The allocated land covers 182,000 sqm, with a 30-year renewable contract.

Enjoying a strategic location

with an 8-km waterfront, Sur Industrial City is home to major industrial projects, including LNG and fertiliser projects, alongside small and medium enterprises operating across various sectors. By the end of the first half of 2026, the cumulative investment volume in Sur Industrial City has reached approximately OMR2.3 billion. The city employs 1,843 workers, including 1,076 Omanis.

The city continues its efforts to develop its infrastructure and enhance the investment environment. The city recently completed the detailed designs for the project of ship-building and maintenance facilities, as well as the general and detailed design for the city's masterplan. Trial operations have also commenced at Sur 1 solar power plant, which aims at further strengthening Sur Industrial City's role in supporting the growth and development of Oman's industrial sector. -ONA

EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE

Conference focuses on raising asset efficiency and operational readiness

SOHAR: OQ Refineries and Petroleum Industries, a company of OQ Group, the global integrated energy investment group, organised on Tuesday the Maintenance, Reliability, and Asset Management Conference at the Radisson Blu Hotel Sohar. The event saw the participation of an elite group of sector leaders, technical experts, and specialists from Oman and the GCC countries.

The third edition of the conference is held under the theme "Smart Strategies for the Maintenance, Reliability, and Sustainable Management of Physical Assets." It aims to exchange knowledge and expertise, explore new technologies, and consolidate cooperation between institutions in the energy and industrial sectors.

The conference also highlighted the role of advanced asset manage-



ment practices in raising operational readiness and reliability, improving efficiency, and developing maintenance methods.

Kamel Bakhit Al Shanfari, Chief Executive Officer of OQ Refineries and Petroleum Industries, stated

that the third Reliability and Asset Management Conference constitutes an important platform for enhancing dialogue and exchanging experiences among sector leaders and specialised experts in the fields of maintenance, reliabil-

ity, and asset management.

He pointed out that by hosting this event, OQ Refineries and Petroleum Industries continues its leading role in supporting the development of advanced asset management practices and enhancing operational excellence, thereby contributing to achieving the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

The conference's programme includes keynote sessions, specialised visual presentations, and panel discussions on topics such as predictive maintenance, digital transformation, and the employment of advanced analytics and artificial intelligence in asset management. This is alongside reviewing practical solutions to enhance reliability, improve performance, and extend the operational lifespan of industrial assets.

The conference also includes a

preparatory workshop presented by international expert Ron Moore, reviewing the best global practices in reliability management and improving asset performance.

The conference sessions also address the importance of adopting recognized international frameworks and standards, such as ISO 55001 and ISO 55002, to support the implementation of consistent and sustainable practices in asset management.

Organising the 2026 conference reflects the commitment of OQ Refineries and Petroleum Industries to enhancing knowledge exchange and building professional capacities, as well as supporting the adoption of modern practices and technologies that contribute to raising asset efficiency and enhancing their operational readiness. The conference also supports

efforts to develop industrial capabilities and encourage regional cooperation, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

OQ Refineries and Petroleum Industries continues to develop its practices in preventive and predictive maintenance, technical inspections, repairs, and quality assurance. This enhances asset readiness for operational purposes, raises the level of reliability, and contributes to reducing unplanned breakdowns, while adhering to technical requirements and standards, as well as health, safety, and environmental requirements. The company also employs data, digital technologies, and advanced analytics to support monitoring asset performance, proactively responding to risks, and improving planning, follow-up, and decision-making processes. -ONA

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Campaign Period: 1st September to 30th October 2026 on Lincoln models Navigator, Nautilus, Aviator & Corsair. Benefits applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries, taxi, rent-a-car, driving school usage, companies or any form of commercial usage or bulk deal purchases **5 Years / 100,000 Kms covering 10 services at 10,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions for Nautilus, Navigator, Aviator and Corsair *** Complimentary 1 year Registration on all above models Navigator, Nautilus, Aviator & Corsair for private vehicles only @ 5 Years / 100,000 Kms (whichever is earlier) Manufacturer's Warranty on Nautilus, Navigator, Aviator and Corsair # Buy and Win raffle Draws 2 nos : on purchase of Navigator, Nautilus, Aviator & Corsair. In the Raffle Draw, customer has a chance to win iPhone 17. Raffle draws will be held at the end of the campaign & 2 raffle winners will be announced. ## Trade in Bonus of up to OMR 1000 for Trade-in of vehicle through Best Cars and purchase of Nautilus, Aviator & Corsair and Trade in Bonus of up to OMR 2000 for Trade-in of vehicle through Best Cars and purchase of Navigator during this scheme period. ### Loyalty Bonus of up to OMR 100 for existing Ford & Lincoln vehicle owners who purchase Navigator, Nautilus, Aviator & Corsair during this scheme period. \$ Complimentary Accessories on purchase of Corsair, Nautilus, Aviator and Navigator. Vehicles may include dealer-installed items. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Lincoln showroom. Pictures and colours shown above are for illustrative purposes only. Campaign will not be applicable for ministry and government deals/supplies.

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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Sharqiyah Desalination, up 6.06%, was the top gainer while, Al Madina Investments, down 6.10%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,614.87 points, down by -0.20% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.18% at 622.55 points. Sharqiyah Desalination, up 6.06%, was the top gainer while, Al Madina Investments, down 6.10%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 8480 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 44.29 million, with more than 168.02 million shares changing hands. Out of 67 traded securities, 21 advanced, 24 declined, and 22 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 3009K while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 2745K, followed by foreign investors for RO 265K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 13,615.38 points, up 0.02%. Prices of Bank Nizwa, Financial Corporation, Al Sharqia Investment, Al Madina Takaful, Al Omaniya Financial Services were up by

3.38%, 3.06%, 2.00%, 0.91%, 0.67% respectively. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Oman United Insurance, Oman & Emirates Investment, Sohar International Bank, Bank Dhofar were down by 6.10%, 4.07%, 1.60%, 0.52%, 0.48% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,903.58 points, down -0.12%. Prices of Oman Fisheries, Oman Chlorine, Galfar Engineering, Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 4.55%, 3.03%, 1.32%, 0.65% respectively. Prices of Al Maha Ceramics, Oman Flour Mills, Gulf International Chemicals, Oman Cables Industry were down by 1.89%, 1.83%, 1.43%, 0.15% respectively.

Services Index was down by -0.30% before closing at 3,038.73 points. Prices of Sharqiyah Desalination, Oman Oil Marketing, Al Suwadi Power, Al Suwadi Power, Al Maha Marketing were up by 6.06%, 2.27%, 1.52%, 1.52%, 0.84% respectively. Prices of Phoenix Power, National Gas, OQ Exploration & Production, SMN Power Holding, OQ Gas Networks were down by 2.10%, 0.89%, 0.62%, 0.54%, 0.45% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value.....	Diff.....	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX.....	7,614.32	7,596.28	7,614.87	7,630.09	-15.22	-0.20%
FINANCIAL INDEX.....	13,648.25	13,556.26	13,615.38	13,612.59	2.79	0.02%
Industry Index.....	9,928.57	9,881.15	9,903.58	9,915.04	-11.45	-0.12%
Services Index.....	3,053.51	3,037.53	3,038.73	3,047.99	-9.26	-0.30%
MSX Shariah Index.....	622.55	619.59	622.55	621.44	1.10	0.18%
MSX TR INDEX.....	11,854.76	11,777.18	11,806.00	11,829.60	-23.60	-0.20%
FINANCIAL TR IDX.....	16,779.81	16,666.71	16,739.39	16,735.97	3.42	0.02%
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX.....	12,715.98	12,655.25	12,683.98	12,698.64	-14.67	-0.12%
SERVICES TR IDX.....	4,099.94	4,078.48	4,080.98	4,092.52	-12.43	-0.30%
FIXED INCOME INDEX.....	1,291.27	1,291.27	1,291.27	1,291.27	0.00	0.00%

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.....	Up	Down.....	Equal	Sec. Traded
168,027,489	44,291,499	8,480	39,413,215,516	21	24	22	67

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PUB. VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000004420.....	BANK NIZWA	1,208,535	181,764	103	0.148	0.153	0.148	0.153	0.148	0.005	3.378	0.153	0.150	0.153	0.100...342,253,814
OM0000002572.....	OMAN OIL MARKETING	799	1,079	1	1.350	1.350	1.350	1.350	1.320	0.030	2.273	1.350	1.300	0.000	0.100...82,721,250
OM0000002440.....	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	9,480	948	8	0.100	0.102	0.100	0.102	0.100	0.002	2.000	0.102	0.100	0.102	0.100...9,180,000
OM0000004933.....	AL SUWADI POWER	483,690	96,573	48	0.196	0.200	0.196	0.200	0.197	0.003	1.523	0.200	0.199	0.200	0.100...142,881,268
OM0000004768.....	MADINA TAKAFUL	71,274	7,878	13	0.111	0.111	0.110	0.111	0.110	0.001	0.909	0.111	0.110	0.111	0.100...19,425,000
OM0000003000.....	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	500	600	1	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.190	0.010	0.840	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.100...82,800,000
OM0000002077.....	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	6,075	917	1	0.151	0.151	0.151	0.151	0.150	0.001	0.667	0.151	0.150	0.000	0.100...47,627,967
OM0000008710.....	BARKA DESALINATION	3,193	505	2	0.158	0.161	0.158	0.161	0.160	0.001	0.625	0.161	0.161	0.173	0.100...12,158,042
OM0000004925.....	ALBATINAH POWER	475,740	95,003	42	0.198	0.200	0.198	0.200	0.199	0.001	0.503	0.200	0.200	0.209	0.100...134,977,486
OM0000003026.....	OMAN TELECOM	2,846,546	3,869,954	103	1.361	1.367	1.358	1.366	1.360	0.006	0.441	1.366	1.363	1.366	0.100,010,024,500,000
OM0000001483.....	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	94,817	46,350	20	0.488	0.490	0.486	0.490	0.488	0.002	0.410	0.490	0.488	0.490	0.100...796,713,714
OM0000001509.....	DHOFAR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	281,621	83,659	34	0.299	0.299	0.299	0.297	0.298	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.298	0.297	0.299
OM0000000972.....	OQ GAS NETWORKS	22,836,878	5,027,724	1,228	0.222	0.222	0.219	0.220	0.221	0.001	0.452	0.220	0.200	0.220	0.100...952,737,262
OM0000002796.....	BANK MUSCAT	12,312,391	5,254,964	1,029	0.428	0.429	0.424	0.426	0.428	0.002	0.467	0.426	0.430	0.426	0.100...3,197,725,148
OM0000001772.....	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	165,289	34,319	17	0.209	0.209	0.205	0.208	0.209	0.001	0.478	0.208	0.208	0.210	0.100...83,961,980
OM0000002549.....	BANK DHOFAR	375,314	77,793	221	0.209	0.209	0.206	0.207	0.208	0.001	0.481	0.207	0.206	0.207	0.100...629,238,296
OM0000003398.....	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	61,514,603	11,847,760	1,197	0.193	0.194	0.192	0.192	0.193	0.001	0.518	0.192	0.192	0.194	0.100...1,473,793,089
OM0000004248.....	SMN POWER HOLDING	16,491	3,052	4	0.186	0.186	0.185	0.185	0.186	0.001	0.538	0.185	0.182	0.185	0.100...36,932,586
OM0000009759.....	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	71,733,416	3,443,037	380	0.485	0.485	0.478	0.481	0.484	0.003	0.620	0.481	0.479	0.481	0.100,033,848,000,000
OM0000009908.....	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	36,448,872	9,272,599	1,409	0.257	0.257	0.253	0.255	0.257	0.002	0.778	0.255	0.253	0.255	0.040...882,170,167
OM0000001010.....	ASTAD SHIPPING	3,185,782	718,429	977	0.230	0.231	0.224	0.225	0.227	0.002	0.881	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.100...1,457,400,156
OM0000001881.....	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	13,062	1,607	5	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.125	0.002	1.600	0.123	0.123	0.130	0.100...15,740,156
OM0000005963.....	PHOENIX POWER	1,557,052	448,091	191	0.289	0.290	0.280	0.280	0.286	0.006	2.098	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.100...409,528,409
OM0000001087.....	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	61,340	20,242	4	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.344	0.014	4.070	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.100...34,650,000
Total.....	34	153,368,150	41,147,085	7,558											

Parallel Market

OM0000004669.....	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	34,230	5,968	3	0.165	0.175	0.165	0.175	0.165	0.010	6.061	0.175	0.165	0.175	0.100	17,115,378
OM0000002911.....	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	9,839	920	5	0.095	0.101	0.093	0.101	0.098	0.003	3.061	0.101	0.095	0.103	0.100	7,073,026
OM0000002341.....	OMAN CHLORINE	2,000	340	4	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.165	0.005	3.030	0.170	0.166	0.169	0.100	12,156,503
OM0000001178.....	MUSCAT GASES	1,700	237	3	0.140	0.140	0.139	0.139	0.136	0.003	2.206	0.139	0.131	0.140	0.100	4,170,000
OM0000009569.....	JABAL REIF	500	54	3	0.109	0.109	0.108	0.108	0.106	0.002	1.887	0.108	0.104	0.108	0.100	18,792,000
OM0000003521.....	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	3,295	506	4	0.154	0.154	0.152	0.154	0.152	0.002	1.316	0.154	0.152	0.167	0.100	31,259,913
OM0000001151.....	OMIFCO	12,827,722	2,901,315	697	0.224	0.228	0.223	0.225	0.223	0.002	0.897	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.000	1,505,108,375
OM0000002168.....	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	52,530	8,144	14	0.155	0.156	0.154	0.156	0.155	0.001	0.645	0.155	0.156	0.155	0.100	34,320,000
OM0000008868.....	THE PEARL REIF	100	18	1	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.178	0.001	0.562	0.179	0.179	0.185	0.179	0.100	105,867,202
OM0000001426.....	OMAN REFRESHMENT	260	286	1	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	0.000	0.000	1.100	1.070	1.100	1.100	0.100	55,000,000
OM0000001590.....	MUSCAT FINANCE	16,799	1,121	4	0.067	0.067	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.067	0.100	20,271,657
OM0000001897.....	MAJAN COLLEGE	2,400	334	1	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.000	0.000	0.139	0.138	0.139	0.100	13,761,000
OM0000002280.....	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INVESTMENTS	14	28	1	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	0.000	0.000	2.000	1.800	2.000	0.100	146,000
140,000,000																
OM0000004776.....	TAKAFUL OMAN	6,003	360	7	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000005260.....	OMAN ARAB BANK	405,956	113,668	42	0.280	0.280	0.279	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.279	0.280	0.100	560,768,133
OM0000008447.....	OMAN REIT FUND	51,627	5,472	12	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.100	89,222,313
OM00000010823.....	OMAN GATEWAY FUND	100	105	1	1.053	1.053	1.053	1.053	1.055	0.002	0.190	1.053	1.053	1.054	0.000	28,878,359
OM00000001160.....	NATIONAL GAS	46,304	5,201	16	0.113	0.115	0.112	0.112	0.113	0.001	0.885	0.112	0.110	0.112	0.100	9,520,000
OM0000002028.....	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	224,763	15,517	21	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.069	0.070	0.001	1.429	0.069	0.068	0.072	0.100	1,449,000
OM0000007910.....	AMAN REAL ESTATE	35,000	2,415	9	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.070	0.001	1.429	0.069	0.069	0.070	0.100	13,800,000
OM0000001400.....	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	11,260	6,621	7	0.588	0.589	0.587	0.589	0.600	0.011	1.833	0.589	0.587	0.589	0.100	102,276,169
OM0000005005.....	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,203	317	3	0.265	0.265	0.260	0.260	0.265	0.005	1.887	0.260	0.258	0.265	0.100	14,300,000
OM0000007084.....	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	14,819	1,424	13	0.099	0.099	0.089	0.095	0.098	0.003	3.061	0.095	0.091	0.102	0.100	20,777,288
OM0000001962.....	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	108,100	8,407	77	0.083	0.083	0.077	0.077	0.082	0.005	6.098	0.077	0.077	0.078	0.100	3,318,700
Total	34	13,856,524	3,078,776	879												

FUTURE BANKER DAY

Bank Muscat continues to introduce employees' children to future career opportunities in banking

MUSCAT: As part of its commitment to raising career awareness among young generations and introducing them to the diverse opportunities within the banking environment, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in Oman, organised the second edition of Future Banker Day Event at Al Bahja Branch in Sohar, North Al Batinah Governorate.

The event brought together a group of the employees' children aged between 13 till 18 years. The second edition followed the success of the inaugural event, which was recently held at the bank's head office. The event aimed to give participants insights into the banking profession and expose them to some of the diverse roles and specialisations that underpin modern banking. It also aimed to strengthen their communication, teamwork and creative-thinking skills through an experience that combined learning, interaction and direct exposure to the workplace.

The event featured a range of interactive activities and sessions, beginning with an introductory activity designed to help participants identify their interests and strengths while exploring different career paths within the bank. This was followed by a welcome address delivered by Khalfan Bot and then presentation about Bank Muscat, covering the organization's evolution journey, its contributions to Oman's banking sector, embracement of digital transformation



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Indian male, MBA (Finance), with +9 years of experience in Accounting & Finance, seeking a position as an Audit Associate. NOC available. Valid driving license.

CONTACT : 72420067, 95272057

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Seeking a suitable position in Sales, Marketing having 16 yrs of experience in Oman & 25 yrs of total experience in the field of Infrastructure, Industrial & Building material products.

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Interested candidates may send their CV to

E-mail: binuraju@cpioman.com

VACANCY

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A manufacturing company in Oman is looking for a **Sales Engineer** with a B.E. in Mechanical Engineering and 3–5 years of industrial sales experience. The role includes preparing quotations and sales orders, following up on purchase orders, coordinating with planning and operations teams, managing customer relationships, and supporting sales across multiple countries. ERP experience, a valid Oman driving licence, and willingness to travel internationally frequently are essential. Experience in composites, piping, or the oil and gas industry is an advantage.

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

48 yrs male Manager in Accounts (23 yrs exp). Contact : 91410602

Pakistani finance professional with MBA and (OACPA certified) with 19 yrs experience in Oman since 14 yrs capable of handling all accounting-related works, with Oman D/L, NOC Contact: 99128007

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

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

M.Com with 4 yrs of experience in the accounting, admin executive. Seeks a suitable job with D/L. Presently in Oman & can join immediately. Contact: +96878585714 Email:sifath774@gmail.com

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

Indian male B.com Accountant looking for suitable job. 13 yrs experience in Oman. D/L & NOC available. Contact : 90302933.

CA Inter qualified lady (keralite) with 3+ yrs of experience in accounting, financial reporting, bookkeeping Based in Oman on a family visa seeking fulltime or part-time roles. Contact : 91281006, 78536919

Indian male, well experienced in accounts including finalization and audit seek suitable positions, can join immediately. Contact : 92824146, 94953826

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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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

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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Driver with 9 yrs experience looking for job. Contact: 78345120

DRIVER

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IT

Indian male 26 yrs Software Engineer with 2+ yrs GCC experience in full-stack web development (PHP, JS, React, MySQL). Presently in Muscat, ready for immediate joining. Contact: +96896094823 Email: sadullah2000@gmail.com

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Indian male, MCA, IT professional (Experience as Network Engineer, IT support and Odoo ERP). Contact : 79701775.

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

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US SPACE FORCE



US confirms it has weapons in space

WASHINGTON DC: The United States has weapons deployed in spatial orbit, the US Space Force said, confirming the existence of such capabilities for the first time.

“The US has on-orbit space control weapons capable of defending the Joint Force against hostile adversary action,” a US Space Force spokesperson said in a press release.

“The statement did not provide specifics on the weapons in question.

“Space control encapsulates the mission areas required to contest and control the space domain — employing kinetic and non-kinetic means to affect adversary capabilities,” it said, adding that “these capabilities can be employed for offensive and defensive purposes.”

US Air Force Secretary Troy Meink also confirmed the existence of US weapons in space, while speaking at the Air, Space and Cyber Conference on Monday.

The Space Force, the US military’s arm dedicated to space, justified the weapons deployment by citing its two biggest geopolitical rivals — Russia and China. It said both countries pose a threat to American interests in space.

China “develops and operates space and counterspace capabilities as part of a military modernisation strategy,” while Russia “views space as a warfighting domain and believes space supremacy will be a decisive factor in future conflicts,” the statement read.

In response, China urged Washington to “stop preparing

In 1967, the world's biggest superpowers and other nations signed the Outer Space Treaty addressing the single biggest concern — deployment of nuclear weapons in space

for war” in outer space. “We urge the US side to stop expanding its military capabilities and preparing for war in outer space,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said, warning against an “arms race” in space.

The final frontier

The militarisation of space is an issue as old as the race to space itself.

In 1967, the world’s biggest superpowers and other nations signed the Outer Space Treaty addressing the single biggest concern — deployment of nuclear weapons in space.

Since then, Russia, US, India and China have been exploring ways to fight in space outside of that treaty. That includes targeting each other’s satellites critical for military communication, navigation and surveillance. — DW

Iran’s Foreign Minister to visit China ahead of Xi Jinping’s US visit

Araghchi’s China visit also comes at a time of heightened tensions in West Asia due to its military confrontation with the US, with Iran seeking diplomatic engagement with key partners amid regional instability

BEIJING: Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi will visit China on September 16 and hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Tuesday, as Beijing also prepares for President Xi Jinping’s expected visit to the United States.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry, in a statement on X, said, “Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran Seyyed Abbas Araghchi will visit China on September 16. Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi will hold talks with him.”

The visit comes ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping’s expected visit to the United States on September 24, where he will hold talks with US President Donald Trump.

Trump announced the date while speaking with executives from the US travel sector, saying he expected the meeting with Xi to produce positive outcomes in early September.

“By the way, we have the presi-



dent of China coming on the 24th; it’ll be very exciting and be great, and I’d love to have him,” Trump said.

Araghchi’s China visit also comes at a time of heightened tensions in West Asia due to its military confrontation with the US, with Iran seeking diplomatic engagement with key partners amid regional instability.

The Iranian Foreign Minister and Wang Yi had earlier met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Kyrgyzstan in July.

Chinese Foreign Minister

Araghchi also held a pull-aside meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit.

Araghchi’s visit also follows Iran’s participation in the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, where Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian led the country’s delegation.

Addressing the BRICS Summit, Pezeshkian called on member

countries to take practical measures against what he described as unilateral and inhumane sanctions and urged the grouping to play a greater role in addressing global conflicts.

“BRICS members have a responsibility to stand against the normalisation of attacks on civilian infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities, because any action against these sites constitutes a direct threat to international peace and security. The issue of Palestine and upholding the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination is a serious test of the credibility and legitimacy of global governance and requires BRICS to play an active role,” Pezeshkian said.

The BRICS leaders unanimously adopted the New Delhi Declaration 2026, which called for reforms in global governance and stronger representation for developing countries.

The declaration also expressed deep concern over escalating tensions in West Asia and called for maximum restraint, protection of civilians and civilian infrastruc-

ture, and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. It also stressed the importance of maintaining the smooth flow of global trade, supply chains and energy in accordance with international law.

Developments in West Asia

On the sidelines of the summit, Pezeshkian also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with the two leaders discussing bilateral relations and developments in West Asia.

PM Modi underscored the need for continued efforts to ensure lasting peace and stability in the region, while highlighting the importance of freedom of navigation, uninterrupted commerce and the safety of seafarers amid tensions affecting the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Against this backdrop, Araghchi’s talks with Wang Yi are expected to provide an opportunity for Beijing and Tehran to exchange views on regional developments and broader international issues ahead of Xi’s high-profile engagement with Washington. — ANI

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

US judge blocks Trump limits on how long foreign students and journalists can stay

WASHINGTON DC: Just a day before the US Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) new rule restricting the duration of visas for foreign students, researchers, professors, instructors and journalists was set to take effect, a federal judge has postponed its implementation, finding that DHS failed to comply with requirements under the Administrative Procedure Act.

US District Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV, in a memorandum and order dated September 14, granted a motion brought by organisations representing colleges, universities, educators and communications workers, postponing the effective date of the Final Rule pending a final resolution of the case on its merits.

The ruling challenged a July 17 DHS rule that sought to replace the existing “duration of status” framework for F, J and I nonimmigrant visa holders with fixed-term admissions.

Under the rule, F-1 students and J-1 exchange visitors would generally have been admitted for the length of their specific programme, subject to a maximum of four years, while foreign media representatives holding I visas would have been admitted for the period necessary to complete their assignment, capped at 240 days. Chinese media representatives would have faced a 90-day limit.

Judge Saylor said the new system would “substantially restrict the overall number of foreign students, researchers, professors, and journalists in the United States.”

“In other words, a DHS official—based on limited and vague criteria, and with no possibility of appeal—will have the power to cut short the academic, research, or



teaching activities of any non-US citizen for no reason or any reason,” the judge said in its ruling.

He further warned that “The damage to the higher education system and to the economy of the United States is likely to be catastrophic.”

Administrative Procedure Act

The court said DHS was required to comply with the US Administrative Procedure Act (APA), despite the department’s invocation of national security and border protection.

“The use of such labels does not, however, give DHS license to ignore its statutory obligations,” Saylor said, finding that the rule had failed to comply with the APA in multiple respects.

The judge concluded that the plaintiffs were likely to succeed on the merits of their claims, that immediate irreparable harm would occur without an injunction, and that the balance of equities and public interest favoured postponing the rule.

“Accordingly, the Final Rule will be postponed pending final

resolution of this matter on the merits,” the order stated.

The July rule had sought to end the “duration of status” system under which foreign students, exchange visitors and media representatives could remain in the United States as long as they maintained their authorised status.

DHS had said the change would “officially eliminate the ‘duration of status’ loophole that allowed foreign students, exchange visitors, and media representatives to remain in the United States indefinitely without routine government oversight”.

Under the proposed fixed-term framework, students requiring additional time beyond their authorised stay would have been required to file a formal Extension of Stay application with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The rule also included additional restrictions for international students. F-1 students enrolled in English language training programmes would have been limited to an aggregate 24 months of stay,

while the standard post-study grace period would have been reduced from 60 days to 30 days.

Undergraduate students would generally have been barred from changing majors or transferring to another institution during their first academic year, while graduate students would have faced restrictions on changing their educational objectives. Students who had completed one degree would also have been prohibited from beginning a new programme at the same or a lower educational level.

The DHS rule was scheduled to take effect 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. Under its provisions, people already in the US under the “duration of status” framework would generally have been allowed to remain until the end of their current programme, provided the stay did not exceed four years from the rule’s effective date.

However, those travelling outside the US and seeking re-entry after the rule took effect would have been subject to the new fixed-date admission system. — ANI

NEPAL

Chilime tunnel rescue closer to breakthrough

RASUWÁ: Nearly three weeks after devastating floods swept through Nepal on August 26, rescue teams working round the clock at the Chilime hydropower tunnel are closer than ever to reaching six people believed to be trapped inside.

But the final stretch of the operation remains the most challenging, with rescuers battling water inside the tunnel and a negative slope that is making it difficult to clear debris and pump out water.

The Indian and Nepali teams have so far cleared about 150 metres of the tunnel and are now around 50 metres from the powerhouse, where the trapped workers are believed to be.

Nepali MP and hydromechanical engineer Sagar Dhakal, who has been involved in the rescue operation for the past 18 days, said the teams were working through the night and were hopeful of making further progress on Tuesday, provided they did not encounter another major obstruction.

“With the machines, we have raised roughly 100 metres plus, and then with the people, we have reached 150 metres plus in the tunnel. The tunnel itself is roughly 220 metres, so we are still yet to reach the 50 metres plus,” Dhakal told ANI in an exclusive interview near the tunnel site.

The immediate challenge is a water pond inside a narrow “rat hole”, where Nepali Army rescuers have been carrying out manual excavation. The water level has made it difficult for them to move further.

The rescue teams are now working to bring in a mini-pump capable of pumping the water out. If the water can be removed and the machinery continues to work without encountering large boulders or other obstructions, Dhakal said



the teams could make significant progress.

“Whenever we say hopefully, there are many challenges on the way. We don’t know what will come ahead,” he said, adding that large boulders could still delay the operation by several days.

The Chilime tunnel presents a different set of challenges from another tunnel, where Dhakal had earlier worked. Unlike that site, the Chilime tunnel has a negative slope of around 6.5 per cent over the first 100 metres, meaning water and debris do not move out easily.

The tunnel is also located next to a large river, with limited space for helicopters to land. The rescuers therefore first had to construct a road to the tunnel face and a roadway across the river, creating escape routes for workers in case of another flood.

“The biggest challenge we have had till now was that there was no escape route. In case there is a flood, there is no way you can run away,” Dhakal said.

The scale of the debris has added to the difficulty. Rescuers are working in confined spaces where muck can rise above their knees, while large boulders can stop machinery from advancing. — ANI



DAILY GLASS OF FRUIT JUICE LINKED TO LOWER DEPRESSION SCORES: STUDY

A daily glass of 100% fruit juice or a smoothie may help improve more than just fruit intake. In a small four-week trial, participants who added one to a healthier diet showed significantly lower depression scores, hinting that a simple dietary change could also support mental well-being.

Drinking a daily glass of 100% fruit juice or a smoothie as part of the UK's 5-a-day guidance may help support mental well-being, according to research from Newcastle University in the UK.

In a randomised controlled trial, adults who typically ate relatively little fruit and vegetables received support to increase their intake. Some participants were also asked to include one glass of fruit juice or a smoothie each day as they worked toward the 5-a-day target.

After four weeks, both groups increased the amount of fruit and vegetables they consumed. However, participants who included fruit juice or a smoothie also reported lower depression scores.

The peer-reviewed findings were published in the British Journal of Nutrition and funded by the Fruit Juice Science Centre. Researchers say the results add to evidence that relatively simple and practical dietary changes may have benefits for mental health.

According to the website ScienceDaily, Dr Courtney Neal,

who completed the study while at Newcastle University and is now at the University of Liverpool, said: "While most people know eating 5-a-day can be good for your health, many people struggle to.

"Our trial showed that when people with low fruit and vegetable intake were provided with targeted financial and educational support to address common barriers to eating 5-a-day, they were able to make meaningful changes to their diet. We found that simple, cost-effective solutions, like drinking a small glass of 100% fruit juice or a smoothie daily, could help people reach their 5-a-day, with potential benefits for mental well-being," said Dr Neal as quoted in ScienceDaily.

Reaching the 5-a-day goal

Eating recommended amounts of whole fruits and vegetables has been associated with a lower risk of chronic disease and better long-term health. Despite those benefits, fewer than 1 in 5 (17%) UK adults and only 1 in 10 teenagers currently meet the 5-a-day recommendation.

Everyone who took part in the 4-week trial ate two or fewer portions of fruit and vegetables per day when the study began. Participants received support designed to help them increase their intake to 5-a-day.

Some participants were in-

structed to meet that target using whole fruits and vegetables alone. Others increased their intake of whole fruits and vegetables while also drinking one glass of fruit juice or a smoothie each day.

Researchers evaluated changes in mood using validated questionnaires that measure symptoms of anxiety and depression. Participants who consumed fruit juice and smoothies alongside whole fruit had lower depression scores than the control group.

Their scores were 2.52 points lower on a 27-point scale, a difference the researchers described as modest but statistically significant.

Fibre intake also increased

Dietary recalls completed during the study suggested that both intervention groups increased their daily fibre intake by an estimated 8-10 g.

That finding indicates that including juice did not stop participants from adding other fibre-rich fruits and vegetables to their diets.

According to the website, the study included 42 participants. Despite concerns about the sugar content of fruit juice, researchers found no adverse effects on metabolic health markers after four weeks among those who consumed fruit juice or smoothies as part of the intervention.

Dr Oliver Shannon, Lecturer in Nutrition and Ageing at Newcastle University and one of the senior authors of the study, said: "Given the ongoing cost of living pressures in the UK, the price of

Drinking a daily glass of 100% fruit juice or a smoothie as part of the UK's 5-a-day guidance may help support mental well-being, according to research



fresh produce is often a barrier for people trying to eat more fruit and vegetables.

Our study shows that drinking a daily glass of fruit juice or a smoothie could be part of the solution and help people reach 5-a-day fruit and vegetable targets.

"The finding that fruit juice drinkers had reduced depression scores is promising and worthy of further exploration, particularly in individuals experiencing poor mental well-being. It backs up studies which report improved brain blood flow and cognitive function after people drink citrus juices. Simple dietary changes -- like increasing fruit intake, including through a daily glass of juice -- could play a role in supporting mental well-being," he added as quoted on the website.

How the study was conducted

The 4-week trial included 42 people who consumed two or fewer portions of fruit and vegetables per day at the start of the research. Participants were randomly assigned to one of three groups.

The first group included 14 people who served as controls and were asked to continue eating their usual diet.

A second group of 14 participants received support to increase their fruit and vegetable consumption to 5-a-day using whole fruits and vegetables only.

The remaining 14 participants

were also encouraged to reach 5-a-day through whole fruits and vegetables, but they additionally consumed one glass of fruit juice or a smoothie each day.

All three groups received £10/week. Participants in groups 2 and 3 were also provided with educational materials intended to help them make the recommended dietary changes.

Researchers assessed participants' mood using validated questionnaires for anxiety (GAD-7 - Generalised Anxiety Disorder 7) and depression (PHQ-9 - Patient Health Questionnaire-9).

The fruit juice and smoothie group scored statistically significantly lower for depression markers than the control group. Scores were 2.52 points lower on the 27-point scale in the fruit juice group versus the control - with an adjusted mean score of 5.45 in the control group and 2.93 among participants who included fruit juices.

Participants also completed four dietary recalls during the study describing what they had eaten during the previous 24 hours. Based on those records, both intervention groups were estimated to have increased their daily fibre intake by 8-10 g. -ANI

TSPORTS

Leeds climb to third spot after impressive win over Newcastle



A 4-1 victory at Elland Road saw Leeds move just four points adrift of leaders Arsenal

LONDON: Leeds United climbed to third in the Premier League with a superb Elland Road performance as they inflicted a heavy 4-1 defeat on a helpless Newcastle United on Monday. A 14-minute burst in the first half proved too much for the Magpies, with an own goal from Lewis Miley following strikes by Jayden Bogle and Dominic Cal-

vert-Lewin, before Noah Okafor netted in the second period. Leeds now sit third on eight points - just four adrift of champions and leaders Arsenal. Daniel Farke's side needed a slice of luck to take the lead when Ao Tanaka's 32nd-minute strike took a wicked double deflection off Sean Steur and Miley before loop-

ing into the bottom corner. Just two minutes and 42 seconds later, Calvert-Lewin thought he had headed in Leeds' second but the final touch came off the top of team-mate Bogle's head for 2-0. But, a minute into stoppage time, Calvert-Lewin claimed his goal with a composed finish across Lukas Hrnicek - taking his career tally against Newcastle to eight. It went from bad to worse for Newcastle in the second half when substitute Okafor slotted home Leeds' fourth of the night. Substitute Bazoumana Toure managed to find a consolation goal for the visitors in the 90th minute, but it was too little too late.



Two wins and two draws have taken Leeds up to third after four games, with only Manchester City and Arsenal having more points. Leeds are now equal with Hull on eight points, four behind joint leaders Arsenal and Manchester City. Newcastle are 12th. After securing safety on their return to the top flight last season with a 14th-place finish, this is a start Leeds fans would have dreamed of. In fact, only in 1995-96, 1998-99, 2001-02, and now 2026-27 have Leeds avoided defeat in each of their first four in the competition in the Premier League era. And that is not the only positive, as Elland Road is becoming the

fortress Farke will have hoped for, with their last defeat coming on March 3. Calvert-Lewin was at his physical best against the team he has more goals against than any other. The Leeds No.9 certainly shows up at home. Since the start of last season, only Erling Haaland (16) and Igor Thiago (13) have scored more Premier League home goals than Calvert-Lewin's 10. It is hard to know what Leeds' true ambitions are this term, but they may be using Sunderland's seventh-place finish last season as an example of what is achievable. "He is in outstanding shape and plays with confidence," Leeds

coach Daniel Farke said of his No. 9. "I expect him to lead the group and he has taken that responsibility. I never doubt his goals but it isn't just his goals, it is the way he plays for us. It is outstanding and he's one of the standout strikers in this league." "That is football, that is the Premier League," said Newcastle coach Matthias Jaissle. "You have to bring the fundamentals on the pitch, especially against a physical and intense team like Leeds. We couldn't match that physicality in the first half and that was a key element. I don't want to search for excuses now, we need to learn out of it and do better." - Agencies

2030 WORLD CUP

Ecuador hire Gallardo as national team coach

QUITO: Marcelo Gallardo, one of the most decorated coaches in the history of the Argentine league, has reached an agreement to manage the Ecuador national team ahead of the 2030 World Cup. The Ecuadorian Football Federation announced late Sunday in a video that the 50-year-old Gallardo - nicknamed "Muñeco" - will replace his compatriot Gabriel Beccacece, who led "La Tri" to the Round of 32 at the last World Cup. Gallardo takes the job after concluding a second stint with Argentina's River Plate, where he won seven domestic titles - including

the 2021 league championship - as well as two Copa Libertadores trophies and a Copa Sudamericana. "We have a generation that competes at the highest level," Ecuadorian Federation president Francisco Egas said. "We have talent, structure, and ambition, and we believe this national team is ready to take the next step." The 50-year-old Gallardo could make his debut on September 24 against South Korea as part of an Asian tour. Beyond seeking qualification for the 2030 World Cup - another challenge lies ahead is the 2028 Copa América. - Agencies



BRAZILIAN CLUB

Coutinho joins Neymar at Santos

LONDON: Philippe Coutinho has joined his close friend and Brazil team-mate Neymar at Santos FC until the end of the season. The former Liverpool and Barcelona midfielder, 34, has been without a club since leaving Vasco da Gama in February. Coutinho returned to his childhood club in 2024 but left after 81 appearances, saying he was "tired mentally". Santos welcomed the player on social media by posting an old photo of Coutinho and Neymar as teenagers, alongside a new version of them re-enacting the pose in the gym. The club also posted a video of Coutinho walking into the dressing room where he receives a hug from Neymar and says "if it's a



dream, I don't want to wake up". Neymar returned to Santos, his childhood team, in January last year and this will be the first time that the friends have played together at club level.

Coutinho started his career at Vasco before joining Inter Milan and later moving to Liverpool in 2013, where he scored 54 goals in 201 games before joining Barcelona for £142m in 2018. - Agencies

MUNICH TO HOST 2028 FINAL

Barcelona's Camp Nou to host 2029 Champions League final

GENEVA: Barcelona's renovated Camp Nou was picked over Wembley Stadium in London to host the 2029 Champions League final, UEFA said on Tuesday. The choice gives Barcelona a marquee game one year before Spain co-hosts the 2030 World Cup with Portugal and Morocco. Staging that final is a contest between Real Madrid's renovated Santiago Bernabéu home and the 115,000-seat stadium being built in Casablanca. UEFA's executive committee also confirmed the 2028 Champions League final will return to Bayern Munich's stadium, which was

the only bidder, just three years after the 2025 edition. The much-delayed rebuild of a 105,000-seat Camp Nou is ongoing with the upper tier and roof still under construction. Barcelona last hosted the Champions League final in 1999, when Manchester United's two stoppage-time goals stunned a dominant Bayern team. Wembley has hosted three times since then - in 2011, 2013 and 2024 - and eight times in total since the European Cup started 71 years ago. This season's Champions League final goes to Madrid at



Atletico's Metropolitano stadium. **Lyon gets a Women's Champions League final** Record eight-time Women's Champions League winner Lyon

EUROPEAN LEAGUES

Roma and Inter tied atop Serie A

MILAN: The top two teams in Italian Serie A, Roma and defending champions Inter Milan, won comfortably to maintain their 100 percent records and Como beat Parma 2-1 to climb into third spot on Monday. Roma continued their superb start to the season with a 2-0 win over Torino. They were joined at the top of the table by the only other team with maximum points, Inter Milan, who came from behind to beat Udinese 5-3. Both teams have 12 points from four games, although Roma are first on goal difference after what was their ninth consecutive victory. In-form striker Donyell Malen scored his sixth goal in four games to put Roma ahead and Niccolò Pisilli got a deserved second in stoppage time. Inter struggled to get going against Udinese, who looked set to continue their good run of away form by scoring twice without reply in the opening 16 minutes. James Abankwah rose unmarked to head Udinese ahead in the ninth minute and Jurgen Ekkelenkamp doubled their lead seven minutes later. However, Carlos Augusto got a goal back for the reigning champions after 26 minutes with a 30-yard strike and Nicolo Barella equalised 10 minutes before half time. In Como, the home side moved into the top three with a 2-1 win over Parma. Jacobo Ramon turned Nico Paz's shot in for the opener midway through the first half and Kai-ki made it 2-0 seven minutes from time after a goalmouth scramble. Jose David Romero got Parma's consolation in stoppage time.



Como are third on 10 points along with Lazio. **Betis continue fairy tale start** Real Betis' strong start to the Spanish season continued with victory over Villarreal. The 2-0 win, courtesy of goals from Cucho Hernández and Natan, came 10 days after they beat Real Madrid 1-0 in La Liga, and less

than a week after they overcame Lille 3-2 in their first Champions League group match since 2005. The result at Estadio de la Ceramica lifts Betis into second place, tied with Madrid on 12 points. Barcelona are top on 15. It was another disappointing night for the home side, who are still to win this season and sit third-bottom with two points from five matches. - Agencies

game on the day he died. The Europa League final this season is at Eintracht Frankfurt's Waldstadion home. Turin will get the 2028 final of the third-tier men's club competition at Juventus' stadium. The 2029 final will be at the 67,000-seat Puskás Aréna in Budapest, which hosted the Champions League final in May. The success of the Conference League since launching in 2021 has seen its finals venues outgrow the 20,000-seat venues for the first two title matches held in Tirana, Albania and Czech capital Prague. - Agencies

UEFA also picked hosts for two editions of the second-tier Europa League: Romania's national stadium in Bucharest in 2028 and in 2029 at the new Serbian national venue being built on the outskirts of Belgrade. The decision on Tuesday comes just nine days after players and fans from Belgrade's biggest clubs, Red Star and Partizan, paid tribute at a game in the city's current main football stadium to convicted war criminal Ratko Mladic who died last month in The Hague. UEFA fined Red Star this month for fans chanting in honour of Mladic at a Europa League

Oman’s Al Amri claims MERC 2 lead after Lebanon rally podium

The second-place RC2 finish puts the rally driver on top of the championship standings with Cyprus and Saudi Arabia remaining

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Zakaria Al Amri moved to the top of the MERC 2 standings after securing a hard-fought second place in the RC2 class at the Rally of Lebanon on Sunday, putting the Omani driver firmly in contention for the Middle East Rally Championship (MERC) title with two rounds remaining. Al Amri and co-driver Mohammed Al Mazroui produced a composed drive in their Subaru Impreza N14 to claim the runner-up spot in the fourth round of the championship, held over three days on the demanding asphalt

stages around Beirut. The podium finish proved crucial in the championship battle, earning Al Amri valuable points and elevating him to the overall lead in the MERC 2 class heading into the final two rounds in Cyprus and Saudi Arabia. Lebanon presented a markedly different challenge from the gravel stages that dominate much of the regional calendar, with the narrow, twisting asphalt roads demanding precision and concentration from the drivers. The event also featured a high-profile battle between Lebanese veteran Roger Feghali and Saudi



driver Basil Abu Hamdan, with Feghali eventually securing victory after the completion of all the stages. The absence of Qatari star

Nasser Al Attiyah and young Omani champion Abdullah Al Rawahi further reshaped the competitive landscape. For Al Amri, however, the focus

was firmly on securing championship points and avoiding costly mistakes. “I’m happy to have secured second place in the class here in Leba-

non despite the difficult conditions and the asphalt roads, which differ from those in the rest of the Middle East rounds,” Al Amri said. He added that the objective remains to win the MERC 2 title this year, with the team now focused on maintaining its advantage through the final two rounds. “We’re aiming to clinch the MERC 2 class title by the end of this year, and we’re working to maintain our lead,” he said. Al Amri also praised his technical team and supporters, while thanking Oman’s ambassador in Beirut for attending the rally and offering moral support. He also acknowledged FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem for attending the event and presenting the awards. With Lebanon now behind him, Al Amri heads into the championship’s decisive phase as the man to beat, with Cyprus and Saudi Arabia providing the final opportunities to convert his hard-earned lead into a regional title.

DECISION TAKEN IN BUDAPEST

Nairobi to host 2029 World Athletics Championships

LONDON: Nairobi won the bid to host the 2029 World Athletics Championships. The decision means an African city will host the event for the first time, and it was confirmed at a World Athletics council meeting in Budapest on Tuesday. World Athletics president Sebastian Coe said Nairobi had presented “a compelling and emotional bid”. “We were fortunate to have four outstanding bids for 2029 and 2031, and this was not an easy decision for the council,” said Coe. “With this decision today, we continue to fulfil our mission of growing athletics worldwide with the hosting of our World Athletics Championships in Asia, Africa and Europe over its next three editions. “Nairobi presented a compelling and emotional bid, and taking the World Athletics Championships to Africa for the first time will be historic. “It was important that the World Athletics Championships should come to Africa when we had the right host, the right bid and the right circumstances. Nairobi has demonstrated emphatically that this is their moment.” The London Stadium, home of Championship club West Ham United, was the proposed host venue for the UK bid. The stadium was also used for the 2012 Olympic Games and the yearly London Diamond League, and also when the city last hosted the Worlds in 2017. The UK’s bid was led by Athletic Ventures, which consisted of UK Athletics, London Marathon Events and the Great Run Company. Jack Buckner, CEO of UK Athletics and co-founder of Athletic Ventures, said: “We are deeply disappointed that the 2029 World Athletics Championships will not be held in London. We believed we had an outstanding bid which



would genuinely take the sport to new levels. “We would like to thank the Government, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Mayor of London and UK Sport for their fantastic support for our bid. Our thanks also to the London Stadium, West Ham United and our many stakeholders for their commitment and hard work to put the bid together. “Our congratulations go to Nairobi and we wish the organising committee all the best for a great event in 2029.”

Rome was the other city to miss out, as World Athletics also confirmed that Munich would host the 2031 event for the first time. Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya, submitted a bid for the 2025 championships but missed out to Tokyo. The city’s Kasarani Stadium is being renovated before the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in 2027, which strengthened its case as a host venue. Kenya finished second in the medal table at the 2025 edition, winning seven gold medals and 11 in total. - Agencies

FORMER INDIA ALL-ROUNDER

Yuvraj: India must avoid ‘massive changes’ ahead of ODI World Cup

MUMBAI: Yuvraj Singh believes to succeed at the 2027 ODI World Cup, India need to pick their best squad now and stick to it so that the players have a good run-in. The 44-year-old former all-rounder cautioned the team from making “massive changes” at the last moment, which has hurt them in the past. “They need to focus on building the same team to play in a year’s time, because you don’t want to make big changes at the last moment,” Yuvraj. Player-of-the-Series in India’s 2011 ODI World Cup win, told Cricinfo. “Whoever your players are, whether they are 16 or 20, it’s important that everybody gets game time because obviously now there’s more T20s and less 50-over cricket. Whatever matches there are, it’s important that players get enough game time to prepare for the World Cup. “Every time India have faltered

is when they’ve made some massive changes at the last moment or in the tournament. So I think it’s important that we stick to a team that we believe can lift the 2027 World Cup and stick by those guys whether they fail or succeed till that moment. Belief in the squad is very important.” India’s long road to the ODI World Cup starts with a three-match series at home against West Indies starting September 27. The Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel faces a slew of questions, former captain Rohit Sharma’s international future being paramount. With the World Cup to be played in southern Africa, there is increased focus on fast-bowling all-rounders, bringing the injury-hampered Hardik Pandya into the conversation. India have also had a preference to stack their squads with all-rounders because they give batting



depth. Yuvraj appreciates the value they bring but believes more focus should be given to players who are match-winners irrespective of the role they play. “We have had a lot of consistency in white-ball cricket. They need to think of first qualifying for the semis and then going on to play in

the last two [knockout matches]. I think that’s a long way ahead. Focus should be to get a squad ready which is together and ready to fight in any situation.” “Every country has a different set of players. Some teams have more all-rounders, some teams have more specific batters and

bowlers,” he said. “You have to go with the best combination. The best combination will always be 12, 13, 14 players and [pick the 15th] according to conditions. Whether you want to play an extra spinner, fast bowler or all-rounder, you have got to go with the best. You’ve got to go with your top 11 match-winners who you feel can win the game. “That’s the reason why Australia have been successful, because I believe that the Australian side, whenever they won World Cups, they’ve had a lot of match-winners who individually can pull off a game, and on a specific day, one does the job, and when they’re all in trouble, they together pull it off.” Yuvraj also asked India to take a leaf out of their previous two T20 World Cup campaigns. India became the first team to win back-to-back men’s T20 World Cups in 2024 and 2026.

“That’s something that we have also done in the last two T20 World Cups,” Yuvraj said. “We also played the 50-over World Cup final [in 2023]. So we have had a lot of consistency in white-ball cricket. And that’s what they need to do as well to think of first qualifying for the semis and then going on to play in the last two [knockout matches]. I think that’s a long way ahead. Focus should be to get a squad ready which is together and ready to fight in any situation.” Yuvraj was recently announced as the co-owner of the Canada Super 60, a professional T10 cricket league. The six-team men’s tournament and the three-team women’s competition will be played at BC Place in Vancouver from September 29 to October 4. Former India quick Zaheer Khan also co-owns a team, Vancouver Anchors, in the tournament.



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman paddlers are gearing up to compete in the 29th ITTF-ATTU Asian Table Tennis Championships 2026 which will be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from October 19 to 25. The event serves as a key continental championship and a qualification pathway for the WTTTC Finals 2027. The Asian championships will represent a major test for Oman’s leading players, with the event bringing together some of the strongest table tennis nations in the continent. Oman will field a five-player squad comprising Muhannad al Balushi, Ahmed al Riyami, Ghassan al Ghassani, Bilal al Rashdi and Nasser al Balushi. The team will be accompanied by head coach Omid Shams of Iran and Syrian assistant coach Adnan Fawakherji. Ahead of the tournament, the team entered an intensive phase of technical and physical preparations. The preparatory camp is focused on tactical awareness, technical execution, match readiness and physical conditioning, with particular attention being given to the demands of competing against high-level Asian opponents. For Oman, the Asian competition will give the players valuable international experience and exposure as the Oman Table Tennis Association (OTTA) continues its efforts to strengthen the national team’s competitiveness at regional and international level. Muhannad from Al Amerat Club will enter the Asian meet with confidence after claiming the men’s singles title at the National Table Tennis Championship earlier this month. Muhannad defeated Seeb Club’s Nasser al Balushi 3-1 in the final to secure the crown. Ghassan al Ghassani, who represents Seeb

Club, finished third after defeating his club team-mate Haitham Al Mandhari 3-1. The recent national championship provided an important competitive platform for the players. Last month, Oman had recorded an encouraging medal haul at the West Asia Table Tennis Championships in Jordan, collecting three medals. The results included one silver and two bronze medals, with Oman’s young players demonstrating their potential in team and doubles competitions. Ahmed al Rawahi and Iyad al

Jasasi had secured the silver in the boys’ U19 doubles. The Omani pair advanced to the final after defeating Qatar’s Taqi Al Din Najadat and Jad Al Baisani 3-2 in a closely contested semi-final. However, they lost 3-2 to Qatar’s Ahmed Qarni and Rawad Al Nasser. Talia Al Rawahi, Salma Al Nasri and Fatma Al Balushi won bronze in the girls’ U13 team event while another bronze came in the girls’ U13 doubles, where Salma and Talia reached the semi-finals before losing 3-1 to Qatar’s Kinda Mahmoud and Hessa.

ROUND-UP

Top Autos and Geely Auto sign distribution pact to relaunch Geely

The partnership marks a new phase for Geely in Oman with a focus on delivering stylish, connected and safe mobility solutions aligned with the needs of customers in the Sultanate

MUSCAT: Top Autos - A Saud Bahwan Group Company, a leading mobility solutions provider in Oman has signed a distribution agreement with Geely Automobile International Corporation to relaunch the Geely brand in the Sultanate. The partnership brings together Geely Automobile International Corporation's expertise and Top Autos's local market knowledge and customer-service capabilities.

The signing ceremony was held at the Saud Bahwan Group Headquarters in Muscat and brought together senior representatives from both organisations. The event was attended by Jinjun Tian, Chief Executive Officer of Geely Auto Middle East FZC and Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan, Chief Executive Officer of Saud Bahwan Group and other officials.

The partnership marks a new phase for Geely in Oman with a focus on delivering stylish, connected and safe mobility solutions aligned with the needs of customers in the Sultanate. Top Autos will combine Geely's product and technology capabilities with its established sales and after-sales infrastructure to deliver a stronger customer experience.

As part of the relaunch, Top Autos will introduce the Geely Coolray facelift and Starray Plus in September 2026 at their Wattayah Showroom, expanding its lineup



alongside the Emgrand, Preface and GX3 Pro to offer a five-model portfolio covering key sedan and SUV segments in Oman.

This refreshed passenger vehicle lineup combines Geely Auto's global engineering, design, tech-

nology and safety with Top Autos's established local automotive expertise and customer service infrastructure to meet the evolving needs of Oman.

Built on Geely's advanced modular platform architecture,

the vehicles will be supported by a warranty of up to 7-years / 250,000-kilometres. In 2025, Geely Auto Group achieved a historical milestone with total vehicle sales reaching 3,024,567 units, representing a 39% year-on-year

growth. International expansion served as a major growth engine, with 2026 H1 export volume reaching 474,000 units outside China.

Top Autos also plans to develop a professional sales and service

network across Oman, with approximately 15 sales and service points targeted when fully operational. This network expansion is intended to provide customers with greater accessibility and consistent support across the country.

Jinjun Tian, Chief Executive Officer of Geely Auto Middle East FZC, said: "Entering this partnership with Top Autos is a pivotal moment for Geely in the Middle East. Oman is a market that values both tradition and transformation, mirroring the very essence of our brand. With Top Autos' localized expertise and our commitment to R&D, we are confident in our ability to set a new standard for stylish, connected and safe mobility throughout the Sultanate."

Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan, Chief Executive Officer of Saud Bahwan Group, said: "Our mission at Top Autos is to align with brands that embody the future of the automotive industry. Our collaboration with Geely Auto reflects this commitment, bringing advanced technology, contemporary design and smart mobility to Oman. By combining Geely's engineering capabilities with our established heritage of service excellence, we look forward to delivering an automotive experience that meets the expectations of customers across the Sultanate."

RECOGNITION

BankDhofar crowned 'Bank of the Year - Oman 2026'

MUSCAT: BankDhofar has added another prestigious accolade to its growing collection of industry honours, winning the coveted 'Bank of the Year - Oman 2026' title at the TAS Oman Business Awards, underscoring its expanding market presence, customer-centric strategy and continuing investment in banking innovation.

The award was presented at the fifth edition of the TAS Oman Business Awards, held in Muscat recently under the patronage of Khalid bin Hilal Al Maawali, Chairman of the Shura Council, and attended by senior executives, entrepreneurs and representatives of Oman's business community.

Organised by The Arabian Stories, the annual awards recognise excellence, entrepreneurship, innovation and leadership across Oman's corporate landscape. The 2026 edition honoured 25 winners spanning a diverse range of sectors.

For BankDhofar, the Bank of the Year recognition adds to a succession of awards and accolades reflecting its progress in strengthening customer experience, expanding digital capabilities and developing products tailored to the increasingly diverse financial requirements of individuals and businesses.

A cornerstone of this strategy is the bank's extensive physical presence. With more than 145 branches across Oman, BankDhofar operates one of the Sultanate's largest banking networks, complemented by an expanding suite of digital services that enables customers to access banking solutions wherever they are.

Supporting entrepreneurship and SME development is another growing focus. Through its Numo SME proposition and dedicated SME Centres across key locations



in Oman, BankDhofar provides businesses with specialised relationship management and banking solutions designed around their growth requirements.

Digital transformation has progressed in parallel. The bank's expanding digital ecosystem encompasses mobile and online banking, digital onboarding, advanced payment solutions and services designed to make everyday banking faster and more seamless.

Its innovation drive has also extended to financial inclusion. In 2026, BankDhofar introduced a Braille debit card, enhancing banking accessibility for visu-

ally impaired customers. The TAS recognition comes amid wider acknowledgement of BankDhofar's performance.

During 2026, the bank has also been recognised for excellence in customer experience and workplace culture, further strengthening its standing within Oman's financial services sector.

Collectively, these achievements position the 'Bank of the Year - Oman 2026' award as recognition not simply of scale, but of BankDhofar's broader transformation into a more digital, inclusive and customer-focused banking institution.

STRENGTHEN COOPERATION

OAWA and Europcar Oman & Bahrain join forces for animal rescue and community welfare

MUSCAT: The Oman Animal Welfare Association (OAWA) and Europcar Oman & Bahrain, part of Asha Enterprises, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at a ceremony hosted by The Diplomatic Club, Muscat, to strengthen cooperation in animal rescue, community awareness, fundraising and engagement initiatives in the Sultanate of Oman.

The MOU was signed by Sayyida Salsabeel bint Badr Al Busaidi, Chairperson, Oman Animal Welfare Association and Nitin Sapre, Group CEO, Asha Enterprises, in the presence of Charm Majolica, Director, The Diplomatic Club, OAWA Board Members and members of Team Europcar.

Under the partnership, Europcar will provide mobility support, including a vehicle and driver, to assist OAWA's animal rescue activities. The collaboration will also extend to awareness campaigns, fundraising initiatives, selected events and community engagement programmes.

Europcar Oman & Bahrain will host mutually agreed OAWA fundraising and awareness activities at its headquarters, providing the necessary venue and event support. OAWA will also be invited to participate in Europcar's Internship Fair and similar community-focused events, with dedicated space to promote its work, raise awareness and engage with attendees.

Adding a personal dimension to the partnership, Team Europcar members who attended the signing ceremony will take up membership with OAWA, with the membership fees sponsored by Europcar. The initiative is intended to encourage the team to



understand OAWA's work more closely and participate in selected activities where they can contribute their time and support.

Nitin Sapre, Group CEO, Asha Enterprises, said: "At Asha Enterprises, we believe giving back to the community is a responsibility, not just a choice. Our Beyond Mobility philosophy reflects our commitment to using our resources, people and network to create a positive impact beyond transportation. Through Europcar Oman & Bahrain, we are pleased to support OAWA with practical mobility assistance for animal rescue while encouraging greater awareness and participation in this meaningful cause."

Sayyida Salsabeel bint Badr Al Busaidi, Chairperson, Oman Animal Welfare Association, said: "Animal welfare depends on committed partnerships and people who are willing to turn support into action. This collaboration with Europcar will strengthen our rescue efforts, expand awareness and help us engage more peo-

ple in creating a more compassionate environment for animals in Oman."

Charm Majolica, Director, The Diplomatic Club, added: "The Diplomatic Club is proud to provide a platform for partnerships that bring genuine value to the community. This collaboration reflects the spirit of collective responsibility, bringing organisations and individuals together to support animal welfare through compassion, awareness and meaningful action."

The MOU establishes a framework for both organisations to work together on awareness, employee participation, event support and community initiatives, reflecting a shared commitment to animal welfare and responsible community engagement.

The collaboration marks another step in Europcar Oman & Bahrain's Beyond Mobility journey, reinforcing its commitment to supporting meaningful community initiatives through practical action and long-term partnerships.



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