

Times

GOLDEN JUBILEE

OF OMAN

51

YEARS OF LEGACY

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HIS MAJESTY ORDERS LONG-TERM PLAN TO ENHANCE NON-OIL TRADE

HM directs efforts to expand local production, capitalise on Oman's location

SALALAH: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik presided over the Council of Ministers meeting at Al Hosn Palace in Salalah yesterday. At the outset of the meeting, His Majesty gave thanks and praise to the Almighty Allah for the plentiful riches, and supplicating Him to perpetuate the blessings of peace and security on our dear homeland. His Majesty also prayed to the Almighty Allah to protect our beloved country, Oman, its people and residents, grant them lasting security and stability, and bless all sincere efforts aimed at achieving accomplishments and aspirations. His Majesty then reviewed domestic affairs. In light of the briefing heard by the Council concerning the preliminary projected outcomes of the 2026 budget, the Council underscored the importance of strengthening fiscal policies and enhancing their capacity to adapt to emerging developments and external fluctuations, so as to ensure that the country's economic and financial



standing remains unaffected by any unwelcome variables or developments and to support the sustainability of economic and financial stability. Within the framework of the Council of Ministers' keenness to boost the growth of the non-oil trade balance, His Majesty directed the preparation of a long-term plan to enhance the growth of the non-oil trade balance. The plan encompasses several tracks that draw on local raw materials, increase domestic production and harness the Sultanate of Oman's location, its ports and advanced infrastructure, as well as the agreements signed with numerous countries, with implementation of this plan to commence at the beginning of 2027. In light of the keen interest His Majesty accords the health sector, the Council reviewed a report on the most significant health projects completed in the past period and those slated for completion in the coming period, in a manner that strengthens the healthcare system at large, in addition to the foremost existing and under-way projects in the medical industries sector. After His Majesty commended the achievements realised in this sector, he extended his thanks to all those working in the health sector for their dedicated efforts, unceasing giving and effective contribution to elevating the healthcare system. **>A4**

Oman launches National Fintech Strategy, Fintech Portal

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman on Tuesday launched the National Fintech Strategy and Oman Fintech Portal. The move aimed at accelerating responsible financial innovation, attracting investments and specialised talent, empowering entrepreneurs, and strengthening the Sultanate of Oman's position as a competitive and trusted fintech destination with global connectivity. This launch, undertaken by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) in strategic partnership with the Financial Services Authority and the National Programme for Fiscal

Sustainability and Financial Sector Development "Estidamah" at the Ministry of Finance, embodies coordinated national efforts developed in close cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development, "Invest Oman," and other partners across the public and private sectors. These institutions are joining efforts to fulfil a clear national



ambition: to build a future-ready financial ecosystem that harnesses technology to expand opportunities, facilitate access to financial services and elevate their efficiency and quality, enhance na-

tional competitiveness, and drive the Sultanate of Oman's transition towards an innovative, diversified, and sustainable digital economy, in alignment with Oman Vision 2040. The National Fintech Strategy provides an integrated framework for translating this ambition into measurable outcomes. It charts a unified national direction for developing the fintech ecosystem in the Sultanate of Oman, harmonizes the priorities of relevant entities, and sets out a methodical roadmap for coordinated implementation. **>A2**

OMAN 'Siraj Oman' initiative for heritage conservation

1 The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth on Tuesday launched the "Siraj Oman", a knowledge and cultural initiative introduced by the Ministry with the aim of activating Oman Encyclopaedia and Oman Encyclopaedia for Young People across all schools in Oman. **>A5**

WORLD World leaders in New York for meeting

2 Top leaders from across the globe gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York for meeting. **>B4**

SPORTS Formula 1 for shorter races from 2027

3 Formula 1 will shorten its standard race distance from 305km to 290km from the 2027 season. **>B7**

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7 Omani startups gain access to global market

Organised by the OCCI in cooperation with OQ (the global integrated energy group), the ceremony was held under the auspices of Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rawas



MUSCAT: The Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) on Tuesday held a ceremony to mark the passing out of 7 startups in implementation of an initiative titled “Plastic Exports Acceleration Programme”, which was designed to enhance the capabilities of Omani companies operating in the polymer sector and achieving the access of startups to global markets. Organ-

ised by the OCCI in cooperation with OQ (the global integrated energy group), the ceremony was held under the auspices of Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of the OCCI Board of Directors. The programme, which lasted for two months, focused on enhancing the readiness of startups for exports and developing their aptitude to access global markets, notably in the United States.

It was also part of efforts to generate new commercial opportunities for value-added Omani products. The programme stems from constant cooperation between the OCCI (via its US Commercial Office) and the OQ. It was in pursuance of the OCCI's role to consolidate the competitiveness of Oman's industrial sector and empower national companies to expand in regional and global

markets. Such initiatives aim to augment the contribution of converting industries and non-oil exports to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The partnership also reflects OQ's ongoing commitment to fostering the growth of Oman's polymer sector, maximizing In-Country Value (ICV) and opening up vistas for facilitating the access of Omani products to global markets. -ONA

LECTURES

Meeting on maritime logistics organised

MUSCAT: The Centre for Strategic and Defence Studies at the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies organised yesterday a number of strategic lectures on maritime logistics and military manufacturing. The events are held under the auspices of Rear Admiral Ali Ab-

dullah Al Shidi, Commandant of the National Defence College (NDC). The lectures, held at the Pension Fund of the Military and Security Services, touched upon the current situation, emerging challenges, and strategic drivers shaping national priorities,

alongside the importance of the maritime logistics sector and military manufacturing in enhancing sovereignty, military capabilities, economic growth, sustainability, and global competitiveness. The organisation of the strategic lectures program comes to discuss strategic issues and devel-

opments in the region in a systematic and scientific manner based on research, study, and analysis, as well as forecasting future challenges over the short and medium terms, and identifying key future plans that delineate regional challenges in the Middle East region. -ONA

QUALITY ASSURANCE CENTRE

QAC's affiliation renewed

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health in the Sultanate of Oman recently achieved a milestone by through the renewal of the Quality Assurance Centre (QAC)'s designation as a “World Health Organization's Collaborating Centre for Quality and Patient Safety Training in the Eastern Mediterranean Region”. The QAC's affiliation to the international organisation has been renewed for the third 4-year term, from 2026 to 2030. The renewal of the Quality Assurance Centre's partnership with the WHO has been the outcome of the Centre's fulfilment of all technical and administrative standards approved by the WHO. The Quality Assurance Centre



in Oman is deemed the first institution of kind to be awarded the designation of “WHO Collaborating Centre for Quality and Patient Safety Training in the Eastern Mediterranean Region”. This renewal affirms international confidence in Omani

national personnel and underlines the Oman-WHO strategic partnership aimed at enhancing healthcare systems in line with the Region's plans and priorities vis-à-vis capacity building and transfer of WHO's expertise to member states. -ONA

DIGITAL ECONOMY

CBO will oversee the implementation of the strategy

FROM A1 The Central Bank of Oman will oversee the implementation of the Strategy and coordinate national efforts with relevant entities, while each institution continues to exercise its legally mandated competences and its policy and regulatory responsibilities. A disciplined governance and implementation framework will reinforce accountability, measure progress, and ensure that strategic priorities are translated into tangible economic and social value. Ahmed Jaafar Al Musalmi, Governor of the Central Bank of Oman, stated that the launch of the National Fintech Strategy marks a pivotal step in the Sultanate of Oman's financial transformation journey. Its impact extends beyond the adoption of new technologies, as it embodies a national commitment to building a more innovative, inclusive, and competitive financial system, better equipped to anticipate the needs of a rapidly evolving digital economy. He added that the ambition goes beyond the Sultanate of Oman responding to transformations shaping the future of the financial sector, to contributing to shaping its contours. The integration of regulation, technology, investment, and entrepreneurship within a coherent national framework would create the conditions for responsible

innovation to move from concept to market, and for promising ideas to become scalable solutions that deliver tangible value for individuals, businesses, and the economy as a whole. The Governor affirmed that there is no conflict between innovation and stability; each reinforces the other when grounded in sound governance, proportionate regulation, and effective institutional coordination. The Central Bank of Oman's responsibility lies in fostering an environment that enables innovators to develop, test, and grow with clarity and confidence, while safeguarding financial stability, market integrity, cybersecurity, consumer protection, and public trust. He said that the Strategy seeks to consolidate the Sultanate of Oman's position as a trusted fintech destination with global connectivity, one that attracts investments and expertise, develops national capabilities, empowers Omani entrepreneurs, and delivers accessible, needs-driven financial solutions that compete internationally. The Strategy will enhance interoperability, consolidate public-private sector cooperation, and develop the digital infrastructure, competencies, and institutional capacities required for a modern financial economy. These ambitions will be pursued in adherence



to the highest standards of financial stability, market integrity, cybersecurity, and consumer protection, and in preservation of public trust. Abdullah Salim Al-Salmi, Chief Executive Officer of the Financial Services Authority, affirmed that the National Fintech Strategy provides a clear roadmap for keeping pace with the rapid developments reshaping the fintech sector. He noted that its launch represents an important step towards unifying existing efforts and initiatives across various financial services sectors, and supporting the development of innovative business models and financial solutions that respond to evolving customer needs and enhance the efficiency and quality of financial services. He added that the Strategy will enhance the Sultanate of Oman's attractiveness for local and international investments in the fintech sector, through a regulatory and legislative environment supportive of innovation and business growth, creating new opportunities for companies and investors,

attracting quality investments, and facilitating the transfer of knowledge, expertise, and advanced technologies to the Omani market. He affirmed that the Financial Services Authority will continue, in cooperation with relevant entities, to develop a regulatory environment that enables innovation in non-banking financial services sectors, including capital markets, insurance, accounting, and auditing. These efforts will keep pace with global fintech developments, accelerate the adoption of advanced technological solutions, and support the continued development of these sectors and the enhancement of their contribution to the national economy. In support of the Strategy's implementation and the translation of its objectives into practical market opportunities, the Central Bank of Oman also launched Oman Fintech Portal, a dedicated platform that provides fintech companies and entrepreneurs with a clearer, more efficient, and better coordinated pathway to enter the Omani market. Oman Fintech Portal will serve as a central gateway for innovators seeking to understand the market, assess their readiness, and connect with relevant entities. The platform will provide guidance on applicable requirements, stream-

line initial application procedures, connect applicants with ecosystem partners, and help promising solutions advance towards engagement with regulatory authorities and exploration of market entry possibilities. Strengthening coordination and reducing the fragmentation of efforts through Oman Fintech Portal will enhance transparency, procedural clarity, predictability, and efficiency for local and international fintech companies. The platform will also strengthen the Sultanate of Oman's ability to identify innovations with promising potential and support their responsible development within an ecosystem that balances opportunity with appropriate safeguards. Mahmoud Abdullah Al Awaini, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Finance and Supervisor-General of the National Programme for Fiscal Sustainability and Financial Sector Development “Estdamamah” affirmed that the National Fintech Strategy constitutes an integral part of broader national efforts to develop the financial sector in the Sultanate of Oman and enhance its contribution to growth and economic diversification. He noted that the Strategy represents one of the key enablers for accelerating the financial sector's transformation and enhancing its efficiency, competitiveness,

and capacity for innovation, in alignment with the objectives of the “Estdamamah” programme and Oman Vision 2040. For her part, Ibtisam Ahmed Al Farouji, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Investment Promotion, affirmed that the integration of Oman Fintech Portal with Invest Oman platform reflects the Sultanate of Oman's orientation towards developing a more integrated investment experience, one that is not limited to making information and opportunities available, but extends to facilitating access to the business ecosystem and relevant entities and enhancing clarity of the pathway for investors, thereby raising the market's readiness to receive investments and companies specialized in fintech. She affirmed that this step comes within the context of national efforts to enhance the Sultanate of Oman's attractiveness for quality investments in future sectors, and to attract technologies, expertise, and innovative business models, thereby contributing to the development of the fintech sector, supporting the transition towards a more diversified and competitive digital economy, and reinforcing the Sultanate of Oman's position as a trusted destination for investment and innovation. -ONA

MEETING



Shura Bureau reviews standing committee reports

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Shura Council Bureau reviewed, during its meeting on Tuesday, a number of reports from the Council's standing committees on a range of desires submitted by the honourable members, alongside a review of several ministerial responses to a number of monitoring tools submitted by the members of the Council. This took place as part of the proceedings of the Council Bureau's Tenth Term (2023-2027) meeting, chaired by Khalid Al Maawali, Chairman of the Council, and attended by the members of the Bureau and Ahmed Al Nadabi, Secretary-General of the Shura Council. The Council Bureau reviewed the report of the Economic and Financial Committee on the Ministry of Economy's Annual Report for 2025, which included the Committee's views on the Ministry of Economy's report referred to the Council. During the meeting, the Council Bureau also considered a number of monitoring tools submitted by the members of the Council. Among the most notable was the question addressed to the Minister

of Housing and Urban Planning regarding the Digital Real Estate Valuation System and the mechanism for determining property value. The Bureau also reviewed the Cognizance Request submitted to the Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology on the Ministry's plans to rehabilitate and reopen Dibba Airport, which sought to inform the Council of the Ministry's plans for the airport's rehabilitation and development, along with the expected timeline for commencing operations, thereby contributing to improving air transport services and serving citizens. The Council Bureau also reviewed the request submitted to the President of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences regarding delays faced by some of the University's students in completing their academic pathway. It also reviewed the Cognizance Request submitted to the Minister of Education on supporting and incentivising education-sector employees working away from their families, which sought consideration of introducing a graduated financial incentive or allowance beginning after a specified period of service away from the family.

MOUNTAIN LYNX / 2

RAO participates in joint military drill in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Units from the Southern Oman Regiment of the Royal Army of Oman are participating, alongside military units from the Pakistani Army, in the joint military exercise “Mountain Lynx / 2”, held in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The execution of the exercise, which runs until 1 October, comes within the framework of annual training plans and programs conducted by the Royal Army of Oman. It aims to maintain the level of readiness and operational efficiency of its personnel, alongside exchanging military expertise with participating forces. -ONA



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Health, tourism issues discussed in Dhofar meeting

Dhofar Municipal Council reviews development priorities across governorate



SALALAH: The Municipal Council of Dhofar Governorate held on Tuesday its seventh periodic meeting for 2026, under the chairmanship of Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar and Chairman of the Council.

During the meeting, the Legal Affairs Committee discussed the outcomes of its meetings with competent authorities, which dealt with a number of proposals aimed at developing and organising “Sanaad” Service Centres to enhance their efficiency and ensure their compliance with regulatory bylaws, alongside the committee’s proposals regarding regulations for organising commercial registers to contribute to their stability and address regulatory issues in markets.

The Council also reviewed the executive position of the Social Affairs Committee’s work during the first half of this year. In co-ordination with the Directorate General of Health Services and the Directorate General of Social Development in Dhofar Governorate, the committee discussed a number of topics related to improving services provided to chronic disease patients, cancer

patients, and persons with disabilities within the governorate, as well as while receiving treatment in Muscat Governorate.

On the health and environmental front, the Council was briefed on the work of the Health and Environmental Affairs Committee and the results of its meetings with relevant bodies, which addressed a number of proposals to enhance scenic view and waterfront projects across various wilayats of the governorate, contributing to boosting tourism attraction, stimulating the local economy, and diversifying the tourism product.

During the meeting, a report was presented by the Governorate Development Committee before the Council regarding developments and proposals aimed at addressing traffic congestion on vital roads in the Wilayat of Salalah.

The Council discussed responses from several entities regarding recommendations previously issued by the Council, including intensifying community awareness efforts regarding the national platform “Tawteen”, enhancing

future skills among jobseekers in various fields, alongside a statement from the Directorate General of Health Services concerning strengthening the Omanisation process and developing national human resources in medical and allied medical specialties.

The Council touched upon a statement from the Directorate General of Social Development regarding initiatives to organise training programmes for persons with disabilities and enhance their presence and participation in events and seasons in Dhofar Governorate.

The session also addressed a statement from Dhofar Municipality regarding the Council’s recommendation related to developing and maintaining water springs, alongside a statement from the Directorate General of Roads and Land Transport at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology regarding placing the dualisation project of the (Thumrait – Al Mazyona) road and the main road in the Wilayat of Al Mazyona among the priorities of the ministry’s upcoming five-year plan. -OMA

81ST SESSION

Oman participates in opening session of UN General Assembly

NEW YORK: The Sultanate of Oman took part in the opening session of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, which commenced in New York with the participation of heads of states and governments, heads of delegations and representatives of global and regional organisations.

This session convenes amid highly critical international and regional circumstances, with an agenda laden with issues relating to peace, security, sustainable development and human rights, alongside discussions of the foremost global challenges, chief among them conflicts, humanitarian crises, climate issues and eco-



nomical and technological transformations. The proceedings of the session constitute an occasion to strengthen multilateral action and coordinate joint international efforts, and to explore means capable of addressing current challenges, in a manner that contributes to entrenching security and stability and enhancing the prospects of peace, development and prosperity for peoples.

RECEDING INFLUENCE OF THE MONSOON

Autumn equinox begins today

MUSCAT: The autumn equinox begins in the Sultanate of Oman on Wednesday, marking the astronomical onset of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere, coinciding with the receding influence of the monsoon winds and the decline of the climatic autumn “Khareef” locally known in Dhofar Governorate.

On this phenomenon, Al Reem

Hamad Al Malki, a member of Oman Astronomical and Space Society, said in a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA) that astronomical calculations indicate this year’s autumn equinox will occur tomorrow, Wednesday, at 4:05 a.m. Oman time.

In Muscat Governorate, the sun will rise tomorrow at 5:55 a.m., reach its zenith at 11:59 a.m., and

set at 6:03 p.m., giving a day length of approximately 12 hours and 7 minutes. She added that this additional length of daylight is due to the phenomenon of atmospheric refraction, which makes the sun appear above the horizon before its actual sunrise and after its actual sunset as a result of the bending of its rays as they pass through the atmosphere. -ONA



Tender Notice

Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) hereby announces the following Tenders:

Tender No.	Description of Project	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Distribution of Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
T/2770176-2/2026 Re-float	Replacement of the Suction Pipe at the New Somhan Pump Station in the Wilayat of Barka, South Al Batinah Governorate	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 250/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	5/10/2026	2/11/2026
OWW/T/10059 2026/	Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a New Dewatering Unit at the Sewage Treatment Plants in the Wilayats of Dibba and Saham	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	5/10/2026	2/11/2026
OWW/T/10062/2026	Call-Off Contract for the Supply and Delivery of Ductile Iron Pipes (DI) to the Main Warehouse for a Period of Three Years	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 250/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	5/10/2026	2/11/2026
T/2762181-2/2026 Re-float	Supply and Installation of a New Diesel Generator for Quraiha Pump Station, South Al Batinah Governorate	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	5/10/2026	2/11/2026

- The tender documents can be obtained from the e-tendering page (Supplier Portal) from this announcement date. The applicants shall pay the tender fee by logging into Supplier Portal (Supplier Login: <https://nws.nama.om/en-us/> à Supplier Hub à Tenders à Supplier Login).
- Applicants who are not registered shall register through the following link: <https://nws.nama.om/en-us/Supplier-Hub/Vendors-Management/Vendor-Registration> to receive the login credentials of the Supplier portal.
- All applicants who have paid the tender fee shall have access to the Tender Documents through Nama Water Services Supplier Portal e-tendering page (All participating companies shall submit a Bid Bond of 1% of the bid value in a sealed envelope. Bid Bonds must be obtained from a local Bank registered in the Sultanate of Oman addressed to Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) Chairman of Tender Committee not later than 2:00 pm on the bid submission date.
- The bid along with all required documents shall be uploaded through Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) e-tendering page not later than 2:00 pm on the date specified above. For more details refer to Tender Page of our website <https://nws.nama.om> & in case of general queries you may contact us through the email ID of tender@owwsc.nama.om

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HM the Sultan presides over Council of Ministers meeting



< FROM A1 His Majesty also blessed the proposal to establish specialised industrial clusters for pharmaceutical industries and medical devices in the economic zones and free zones, with the aim of reinforcing national pharmaceutical security and localising pharmaceutical and biomedical industries.

Based on the findings of the performance assessment of government institutions for the first half of 2026, issued by the Government Institutional Performance Measurement Unit, and the results of the evaluation of the annual follow-up reports submitted by government entities, which revealed an improvement in performance levels reflecting continued positive progress in meeting targets and enhancing the effectiveness of performance, His Majesty commended the efforts of the civil units in the State's administrative apparatus that recorded high performance and those civil units that raised the quality of their planning, coordination and follow-up, with the aim of achieving their objectives and elevating their performance.

The Council listened to a briefing on the performance and assessment of a set of national programmes. It commended the results they achieved, which contributed to the development of several sectors. Out of keenness to strengthen institutional integration and stimulate the business environment and its competitiveness, the Council approved the establishment of the "National Programme for Enhancing an Investment-Attractive Business Environment."

The programme will be launched at the beginning of 2027, as an enabling national initiative to contribute to enhancing the competitiveness of the business environment, attracting local and foreign investments and pursuing the improvement of services provided to citizens, residents and investors over the coming phase.

Regarding preparations for the elections of the fourth term of the Municipal Councils, to be held in December. These Councils play a pivotal role in local development, in following up on service projects across the governorates, and in raising recommendations and proposals.

Accordingly, His Majesty directed that a comprehensive assessment be conducted of the competences granted to the Mu-



nicipal Councils, the roles they undertake and the integration of their work with that of the governors. His Majesty also affirmed the necessity of effective participation by all segments of society and

of sound choice in the elections. This, His Majesty stressed, is important in furnishing the Councils with the competent talents whose expertise is relied upon to elevate the work of the Municipal Coun-

cils in the coming phase. Within the framework of reviewing the wide turnout of visitors witnessed by this year's Khareef Dhofar season, which reflected the governorate's stand-

ing as a distinguished tourism destination, and the positive resonance of community engagement with the level of organisation, His Majesty expressed his satisfaction with the efforts and roles under-

taken by Dhofar Governorate and the relevant authorities in advancing economic development in the governorate.

His Majesty affirmed the necessity of keeping pace with the growing tourism movement. He also stressed the importance of continuing to enhance and develop services and the needs of tourists in an integrated manner, through cooperation between government entities, the private sector and the local community. This, His Majesty noted, contributes to supporting the local economy and reinforcing its sustainability.

In the wake of the persistent challenges witnessed in the regional situation, the Council affirmed the Sultanate of Oman's steadfast position, characterised by constructive neutrality, the containment of conflicts, and the call to give precedence to the language of dialogue and political solutions, to respect the sovereignty of all states and good neighbourliness, in a manner that contributes to entrenching regional security and stability.

His Majesty has renewed his commendation of the military and security apparatuses and the civil entities, and of the efforts and measures they exert to protect the country, secure the continuity of the supply of goods, and facilitate transport procedures and the movement of individuals and trucks.

In light of the recent Royal visits to a number of sisterly and friendly countries, His Majesty acquainted the Council with the outcomes of those visits, which were crowned with success. These visits aimed to develop bilateral relations with those countries, enhance communication between peoples, and facilitate the paths of commercial, economic and investment exchange.

His Majesty accordingly directed the relevant authorities to maximise the benefit of the agreements and understandings signed with those countries, and to exert diligent efforts to achieve their objectives. This, His Majesty noted, serves the common interests and contributes to realising national goals, particularly the growth of the national economy, the development of exports and the increase of gross domestic product.

His Majesty the Sultan then offered supplication to the Almighty Allah to grant all continued success in all that brings goodness and prosperity to this beloved homeland and its loyal people. -OMA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS AND YOUTH

‘Siraj Oman’ initiative to highlight efforts for heritage conservation

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth on Tuesday launched the “Siraj Oman”, a knowledge and cultural initiative introduced by the Ministry with the aim of activating Oman Encyclopaedia and Oman Encyclopaedia for Young People across all schools in the Sultanate of Oman, in coordination with the Ministry of Education.

The launch ceremony was held under the patronage of Sayyid Said Sultan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Culture. During the ceremony marking the launch of the “Siraj Oman” initiative’s identity, the programme “Our Culture is the Source of Our Identity” was unveiled — a visual presentation featuring a series of episodes to be broadcast across media platforms in cooperation with the Ministry of Information. The Siraj digital game was also announced.

Additionally, the “Printed Omani Heritage Lexicon” was launched, a bibliographic docu-



mentation project aimed at surveying and introducing printed Omani heritage by documenting its intellectual output and presenting its data in a scientific and methodical manner.

The lexicon constitutes a contribution to highlighting Oman’s efforts in serving Arab heritage

and to introducing the scientific and intellectual output produced by Omanis over the centuries, thereby facilitating access for researchers and those interested to this knowledge corpus and supporting efforts to preserve, study, and revive it.

The initiative targets all seg-

ments of society, beginning with the school community, which forms the foundational building block of society — this group constitutes approximately 50 percent of the population — and extending to the rest of society’s segments, as well as tourists and residents in the Sultanate of Oman. -OMA

His Majesty greets Custodian of Two Holy Mosques, Crown Prince

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent two cables of greetings to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), and Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, on the occasion of Saudi Arabia’s National Day. In the cables, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments on this auspicious occasion, praying to Allah the Almighty to perpetu-



ate goodness, prosperity, and stability upon the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. -OMA

NEW YORK

Seminar held on challenges by non-state armed groups



NEW YORK: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by its Permanent Delegation to the United Nations in New York, participated in a seminar entitled “Challenges Associated with Non-State Armed Groups,” organised in New York by the GCC Secretariat General on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, with the participation of a number of officials and representatives of the GCC states and the United Nations.

The seminar examined the challenges posed by non-state armed groups and their implications for the sovereignty, security, and stability of states, as well as ways to strengthen the role of

state institutions, entrench the rule of law, and develop mechanisms for cooperation and coordination at both the regional and international levels, thereby contributing to addressing these challenges and mitigating their repercussions.

Multilateral action

The discussions also addressed the importance of integrating international efforts and enhancing multilateral action to tackle the root causes of instability, and of supporting solutions that contribute to safeguarding the sovereignty of states and reinforcing regional and international security and stability. -OMA

81ST SESSION

Oman participates in joint Gulf-Swiss ministerial meeting

NEW YORK: The Sultanate of Oman took part in the joint ministerial meeting between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and the Swiss Confederation, held in New York on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Sultanate of Oman’s delegation to the meeting was led by Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Al Qatbi, Head of the International Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry.

The meeting examined cooperation relations between the GCC states and the Swiss Confederation and explored ways to strengthen and develop them across various areas of mutual



interest, in service of the shared interests of both sides.

The two sides also exchanged views on the most prominent current regional and international issues and developments. The views

also covered efforts to reinforce security and stability. The two sides affirmed the importance of dialogue, international cooperation and multilateral action in addressing common challenges. -OMA

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TENDERS

The company invites specialized companies to participate in the following tender:

Sl. #	Tender ID	Description	Tender Fee	Deadline for Request for Tenders	Deadline for Submission of Offers
1.	07-26	Sale of Power Plant	Free	06 th October 2026 2359 Hours	13 th October 2026 2359 Hours
2.	1530000113-26	Supply and Installation of Aggregate Plant	Free	13 th October 2026 2359 Hours	20 th October 2026 2359 Hours

Tender documents can be obtained by scanning the barcode provided at the bottom of this advertisement. Bidders are required to complete all the requested information in the form to submit their request. Upon successful submission, the tender documents will be shared accordingly.

The last date for submission of offers is on Tuesday, 2359 hours, detailed date on the above table, accompanied by a bid bond issued by any local bank in Oman (equivalent to 1%) of the total tender value. The bid bond must be valid for 120 days from the last date of submission of offers, and the ORIGINAL bid bond must be submitted on the tender box at the reception of our Administration Building, Al Misfah West factory Site, Bausher, Muscat, Oman.

The Company’s account is detailed below:

Account name: Oman Cement Company SAOG
Bank Name: Bank Muscat SAOG
Account number: 0423 01086 3070 017
Account Type: OMR
SWIFT Code: BMUSOMRX



For inquiries, please contact nasser.said@omacement.com & yaqub.tamtami@omacement.com
Contact details: Office number: +968 22705601, 22705566.

To request for tender documents, Please scan the code and fill the requirements.



وزارة التنمية الاجتماعية
Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

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

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)	
					Small and Medium companies	Local companies
466/2026	Supply and installation of surveillance cameras for the buildings of Al-Wafa Center for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities at Rustaq	Companies specialized in the field of Security, alarm and safety systems installation services registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority with excellent or first or second or third or fourth degree	Monday 12-10-2026 02:00 PM	Sunday 01-11-2026 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O

❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at theTender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>), On Wednesday 23/09/2026

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

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

وزارة الصحة
Ministry of Health



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health (Al Buraimi Hospital) invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tender:

Ref:	Description	Last date for collection of bidding document	Last date for submission of tenders	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non Refundable)
2026/3844	Tender Replacement of Two Tumble Dryer and Flatwork Ironer Equipment At Al Buraimi Hospital	Before 2 PM On 01/10/2026	Before 10AM On 28/10/2026	Specialized companies registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority	● 10 R.O Small & Medium Enterprises ● 25 R.O Local Companies

Please note the following:

- Companies wishing to participate in the Tender can purchase the tender documents electronically through the website (etendering.tenderboard.gov.om), provided that they are registered in the system.
- Companies must submit their bids electronically via the above-mentioned website, provided that a Bid Commitment Declaration, and bids received without the required Declaration will not be considered.
- The ministry is not obligated to accept the lowest bid or any other bid.
- For inquiries related to the above tender, please contact through the website of the Esnad system for electronic tendering: (etendering.tenderboard.gov.om)

Muscat Municipality continues to enhance its road infrastructure

Since the beginning of the current year, approximately 95 kilometres of internal roads have been completed as part of its efforts to keep pace with urban expansion and population growth

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muscat Municipality continues to implement road paving, maintenance and rehabilitation projects across the various wilayats of Muscat Governorate. Since the beginning of the current year, approximately 95 kilometres of internal roads have been completed as part of its efforts to keep pace with urban expansion and population growth, enhance the efficiency of the road network, strengthen traffic flow and road safety.

The lengths of roads accomplished since the beginning of the current year are distributed as follows: 27 kilometres in the Wilayat of Bawshar, 22 kilometres in Al Amerat, 20 kilometres in the Wilayat of Seeb, 17 kilometres in Quriyat, and 9 kilometres in the Wilayat of Muscat. These works have been carried out through the Municipality's own efforts; in ad-



dition to works undertaken as part of the "Supply and Asphalt Paving in Muscat Governorate" project.

As of the middle of the current year, the total length of asphalt roads in Muscat Governorate has reached approximately 5,972 kilometres, comprising 584 kilometres of main roads and 5,388 kilometres of secondary and internal roads. The Municipality continues to carry out preventive maintenance works to preserve the efficiency of these roads, alongside paving unpaved roads in residential neighbourhoods in line with urban expansion across the Governorate's wilayats.

As part of the road projects currently under implementation, Muscat Municipality continues to implement the two projects for the Design and Construction of Internal Roads in Al Amerat – A and B, which include the paving of 26 kilometres of internal roads, of which 14 kilometres have been accomplished to date. The two projects cover Al Nahda City in Phases 1, 5, 6 and 7, the Fourth and Eighth Al Amerat Heights, and the areas of Jahlout, Saiya and Khawrat.

With regard to road maintenance and rehabilitation, Muscat Municipality has carried out maintenance works covering

more than 70,000 square metres since the beginning of the current year, under the two projects "Road Maintenance in Seeb, Bawshar, Mutrah and Muscat" and "Road Maintenance in Al Amerat and Quriyat."

The maintenance works were distributed as follows: 22,420 square metres in Al Amerat, 16,585 square metres in Quriyat, 12,526 square metres in the Wilayat of Bawshar, 11,544 square metres in the Wilayat of Seeb, 8,820 square metres in Mutrah, and 416 square metres in the Wilayat of Muscat.

The maintenance works comprise pothole repairs; full reconstruction of roads; rehabilitation of asphalt and sub-base layers; maintenance and replacement of concrete barriers, pavements and side protections; removal of fallen rocks from mountain protections. As well as the construction and maintenance of concrete roads and the supply of asphalt to the Municipality's pothole maintenance teams. They also include preventive and emergency maintenance of various road asset components.

The current year's works build on the road network development programmes implemented by Muscat Municipality in previous

years. The total length of roads achieved in 2025 reached approximately 143 kilometres, compared with 141 kilometres in 2024.

The roads completed in 2025 were distributed as follows: 64 kilometres in the Wilayat of Al Amerat, 31 kilometres in Bawshar, 31 kilometres in Seeb, 12 kilometres in Quriyat, 4 kilometres in the Wilayat of Muscat, and 1 kilometre in Mutrah.

In 2025, a total of 134 kilometres were achieved through the Municipality's own efforts, while 9 kilometres were carried out by contractors. In comparison, in 2024, 55 kilometres were completed through the Municipality's own efforts and 86 kilometres by contractors. This reflects the diversity of implementation approaches adopted to meet the road network needs across the Governorate's wilayats.

Muscat Municipality determines priorities for paving internal roads based on numerous technical and service-related criteria, most notably population density, plot occupancy rates, achievement of infrastructure service connections to avoid re-excavation after paving, the age of the plan, and the presence of essential facilities such as schools, mosques and health centres.

Priorities for maintenance and rehabilitation works are also determined based on the technical condition of the road, traffic volume, safety requirements and the efficiency of rainwater drainage, while taking into account citizens' observations and reports.

This contributes to directing paving and maintenance works according to needs and priorities across the various wilayats of the Governorate.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman



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Royal directives boost diversification

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Economy pointed out that the Royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, when he presided over the meeting of the Council of Ministers yesterday, emphasise the importance of continuing to build an economy capable of handling changes, expanding the productive base, and sustaining financial and economic stability.

Dr. Khamis Saif Al Jabri, Minister of Economy, stated that the Royal directive to prepare a long-term plan for the growth of the non-oil trade balance represents an important path to maximizing benefit from local resources, strategic location, infrastructure, and agreements signed with many countries.

He added that establishing specialized industrial clusters for pharmaceutical industries and medical devices, alongside approving the National Program for Enhancing the Investment-Attractive Business Environment, supports localizing vital industries and elevates the attractiveness of the business environment for local and foreign investments.

Al Jabri pointed out that these paths collectively support achieving the targets of Oman Vision 2040 linked to its economic priorities and moving toward more sustainable and diversified development based on expanding



the productive base and increasing benefit from the comparative and competitive advantages of the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

Sadaf Buchanan Wins Industry Leader of the Year – Legal Services Award



Sadaf Buchanan, Partner at Dentons, was felicitated with the "The Origin Industry Leader of the Year – Legal Services 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.

With more than 20 years of experience in restructuring and finance, Sadaf has established herself as one of the leading legal professionals in Oman's banking and finance sector. She heads Dentons' Tier 1-ranked Banking and Finance team in Muscat and also leads the firm's Islamic Finance initiative for the Oman office.

Throughout her career, Sadaf has advised both lenders and borrowers on a wide range of complex matters spanning banking and finance, restructuring, commercial lending, Islamic finance and debt capital markets. Her experience includes advising on several landmark debt capital markets transactions origi-



nating from the Sultanate, as well as major local and international financing matters across sectors including energy, hospitality and financial services.

Beyond her legal practice, Sadaf has also contributed to advancing women's professional development and inclusive leadership. Her recognition as Industry Leader of the Year – Legal Services celebrates a career defined by expertise, leadership and contribution to Oman's evolving legal and financial landscape. Sadaf's journey demonstrates the impact women leaders can make at the highest levels of the legal profession while helping create opportunities for the next generation of professionals.

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.

For more information, contact: 78471944/97221630

FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN OMAN

Research project explores harvesting water from air

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A research project has explored the potential of harvesting water from the air and combining it with solar-powered greenhouse and hydroponic systems to support sustainable agricultural production in the Sultanate of Oman. Funded by the Strategic Research Programme of the Research and Innovation Authority in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, the project, titled "Feasibility Study to Extract Water from Air and Utilise it in Salt-Affected Lands," was led by Dr Ahmed Al Busaidi, a researcher at the College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University.

Dr Al Busaidi examined the feasibility of integrating atmospheric water harvesting (AWH) technology with hydroponic farming and solar energy as a potential approach to agricultural production in areas affected by soil salinity and water scarcity.

As part of the research, he and his team assessed different locations across Oman to determine where atmospheric water harvesting could be most effective. The study identified several areas with favorable conditions, including parts of southern Oman near the borders with Yemen and Saudi Arabia, the northern coastline, and selected locations in the central regions.

The most appropriate use of the harvested water would depend on the characteristics of each location. In more urbanised areas along the northern coastline, the water could potentially support drinking and industrial uses, while southern areas could be better suited to agricultural applications. Central and remote regions could benefit from a combination of drinking and agricultural water production.

The research team also evaluated the productivity of different atmospheric water harvesting machines. Depending on weather



conditions and machine capacity, the systems were able to produce up to 40 or 100 litres of water per day.

The project subsequently integrated atmospheric water generators with solar energy and a hydroponic farming system, and a new greenhouse was constructed to test crop production using renewable energy and water harvested directly from the air.

According to Dr Al Busaidi, results showed notable differences between crops grown in the controlled greenhouse environment and those cultivated outdoors. Greenhouse-grown tomato plants recorded an average chlorophyll content of 25.5 and reached an average height of 186 centimetres, compared with a chlorophyll content of 8.23 and a height of 76.5 centimetres among outdoor plants. Lettuce grown under controlled greenhouse conditions also recorded higher chlorophyll levels and larger leaves, demonstrating the potential benefits of optimised growing conditions.

The study found that the integrated system could offer both economic and environmental advantages. Greenhouse production allows crops to be cultivated throughout the year, reducing seasonal limitations and potentially providing farmers with more consistent income. The use of

solar energy can also reduce dependence on conventional energy sources and lower operating costs, while surplus electricity generated by the system could be exported to the power grid as an additional potential source of revenue.

The research also highlighted the wider potential of sustainable greenhouse systems to address challenges including water scarcity, soil salinity, limited arable land, and harsh climatic conditions. Such systems could support the cultivation of high-value crops, diversify agricultural production, and contribute to food security in arid regions. At the same time, the project identified areas requiring further development, particularly the management of nutrient levels and pH fluctuations in hydroponic systems.

Dr Al Busaidi recommended greater investment in advanced automation technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), to improve the monitoring and management of water, nutrients, and environmental conditions. AI-enabled sensors and connected technologies could allow these factors to be adjusted in real time according to crop requirements, helping reduce waste and improve resource efficiency. He also recommended expanding production to include additional high-value crops such as medicinal plants and exotic fruits, strengthening the integration of renewable energy technologies, and encouraging adoption through technical training, public awareness initiatives, and appropriate incentives. In addition, he highlighted the potential use of sustainable greenhouses for research, education, and ecotourism.

The research team included Dr Al Busaidi, Dr Adil Al Mahdouri, Dr Hamed Al Dhuli, Eng. Zahir Salmani, Eng. Seif Al Tubi, Eng. Dawod Al Qasbi, Eng. Badriya Al Hosni and Dr Buthaina Al Wahaibi.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION

Ministry to chart integrated economic path to boost Oman’s competitiveness

MUSCAT: Anwar Hilal Al Jabri, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, emphasised that the Royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to establish the National Programme for Enhancing an Investment-Attractive Business Environment, alongside preparing a long-term plan to enhance the growth of the non-oil trade balance, chart an integrated economic path to boost the competitiveness of the Sultanate of Oman.

The Royal directives also consolidate Oman’s status as an attractive investment destination, and expand the presence of Omani products in global markets.

Al Jabri explained in a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA) that the upcoming phase will focus on facilitating ease of doing business, raising procedural efficiency, attracting qualitative investments, and developing non-oil exports while opening



new markets for them, thereby boosting the growth of the private sector and the national productive base.

He added that the Ministry of

Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion will work, in partnership with relevant entities and the private sector, to translate these Royal directives into

executive tracks with tangible economic impact, thereby supporting economic diversification and achieving the targets of Oman Vision 2040. – ONA

IN TUNISIA



Oman participates in Arab radio and television festival

TUNIS: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Information, participated in the 26th edition of the Arab Radio and Television Festival, which opened at the ancient Carthage Theatre in the Tunisian capital and runs until 24 September.

During this edition, held under the slogan “The Pulse of the Image and the Echo of the Future,” Omani artist Samira Al Wahibi was honoured alongside a group of male and female artists from

across the Arab world.

The festival, organised by the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), features panel discussions, an “ASBU” exhibition for technology and equipment, and a programme production market. The awarding ceremony of the winning Arab works in the radio and television competitions and the new media competition will be held this Thursday at the Opera Theatre in the City of Culture in Tunis. – ONA

HEALTH PERSONNEL



His Majesty’s support to health sector welcomed

MUSCAT: Several health sector personnel emphasised that the interest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, and the attention His Majesty accords to the health sector in the Sultanate of Oman, along with the continuous support accorded to the health-care system, reflect His Majesty’s keenness on the health and safety of the people of Oman and its residents.

They pointed to the Royal

blessing of His Majesty the Sultan for the establishment of specialised industrial clusters for pharmaceutical industries and medical devices in economic and free zones, explaining that it represents a noble gesture that enhances national drug security, supports the process of industrial localisation in this vital field, and consolidates the position of the Sultanate of Oman in this strategic sector. – ONA

OPAZ

Specialised clusters for pharma, medical devices praised

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik’s blessing of the proposal to establish specialised industrial clusters for pharmaceutical industries and medical devices in the economic zones and free zones aims to enhance national drug security and localise pharmaceutical and biomedical industries.

This took place when His Majesty the Sultan presided over the meeting of the Council of Ministers.

Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ), explained that the proposal to establish specialised industrial clusters for pharmaceutical industries and medical devices in economic zones and free zones comes through cooperation between the Authority, the Ministry of Health, relevant government entities, and operators in the Salalah Free Zone, Raysut Industrial City affiliated with the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates “Madayn”, and Khazaen Economic City.

He said in a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA) that the proposal aims to enhance national drug security, localise pharmaceutical and biomedical industries, and support national efforts aimed at localising pharmaceutical and medical industries while attracting qualitative investments to this vital sector.

Al Yousef added that this direction comes within the framework of building an integrated ecosystem for pharmaceutical industries, medical devices, and medical supplies in special economic zones, free zones, and industrial cities, and making use of their capabilities in terms of advanced



infrastructure and a stimulating investment environment, thereby contributing to enhancing the competitiveness of the Sultanate of Oman as a destination for specialised investments in pharmaceutical and medical industries.

He clarified that the first phase includes launching Salalah City for Pharmaceutical and Medical Industries, which represents cooperation and integration between Salalah Free Zone and Raysut Industrial City, with a total area exceeding one million square metres. Salalah Free Zone is allocating an area of approximately 500,000 square metres for medical and pharmaceutical investments, while Raysut Industrial City is allocating an area exceeding 500,000 square metres for the same sector, providing an integrated industrial domain that benefits from the industrial and logistical capabilities of Dhofar Governorate and contributes to building interconnected value chains serving manufacturers, suppliers, and service providers associated with the sector. – ONA

Full story @timesofoman.com/business

ONE WEEK TO GO

Shabiba Jawa’iz Basma (Social Impact) 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.

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
- Leadership in ICV
- Leadership in CSR
- Social Impact Leader of the Year and many more ...

The event will showcase inspiring efforts that create lasting community impact and support Oman's broader sustainability and development goals.

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SPORTS

Oman’s young fencers shine on debut before last-16 exits



The fencing duo of Ahmed Kaskas and 15-year-old girl Janna Al Sharji produced encouraging displays at the Aichi-Nagoya Games on Tuesday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman’s young fencers made an encouraging impression on their Asian Games debut before seeing their campaigns end in the last 16 round on Tuesday, with Ahmed Anwar Kaskas and 15-year-old Janna Al Sharji emerging as the standout performers on an eventful opening day at the Aichi-Nagoya Games 2026.

Competing against some of Asia’s most accomplished fencers, Kaskas advanced from the men’s foil group stage before bowing out in the round of 16, while Janna also



progressed from the women’s épée pools to reach the same stage.

Their performances offered a glimpse of the potential within Oman’s young fencing programme, despite both facing highly experienced opposition in the knockout rounds.

Kaskas negotiated a demanding group stage to secure his place in the last 16 after

defeating Pakistan’s Mohammad Yasin Khan. He then faced China’s Ji Xiu, bringing his debut campaign to an end.

Janna produced an equally promising performance in the women’s épée.

The teenager recorded two victories in the group stage to qualify for the knockout phase before losing to South Korea’s Lim

Tae-hee. Her progress was particularly notable given her age and the quality of the field.

Among her group-stage opponents was South Korea’s Sera Song, a former world champion.

“I expected the competition to be very strong because this tournament brings together some of the best fencers in the world,” Janna said after her opening-day campaign.

“Personally, I had great confidence in my ability, so I expected to reach this stage, although I was hoping to go further.”

The teenager said the experience of competing against some of the continent’s leading fencers would prove invaluable as she develops.

“Reaching the last 16 is an additional motivation for me to continue working hard and developing my technical skills,” she said.

Oman coach Hisham bin Ali Karshoud was encouraged by what he saw from his young charges, stressing that the competition represented an important step in their development at senior level.

“Our players produced honourable and promising performances, particularly considering their young age and the fact that this was one of their first experiences in a major senior-level competition,” Karshoud said.

He highlighted Kaskas’ progress in the men’s foil, where he advanced from the pools before facing a Chinese opponent ranked seventh in the world.

“Despite the difficulty of the match, Ahmed showed fighting spirit and a good level that we can build on for the future,” the coach said.

Karshoud also praised Janna’s performance, pointing to her two group-stage victories before she faced a Korean opponent ranked third in the world.

“Despite the loss, her level was positive and confirms that she has a promising future,” he said.

Kaskas, meanwhile, described the experience as a major learning opportunity for Oman’s first-time Asian Games fencers.

“As this was our first participation, we did not expect such a high level of competition,” he said. “The group stage was extremely difficult, with every player seeking to demonstrate their strength, skill and technical ability.”

With many of the competitors boasting world, Olympic and Asian Games experience, Kaskas believes the lessons gained in Nagoya will help Oman’s young fencers take another step forward.

The day also saw Saeed Al Shuaibi and Salma Al Dughaihi exit in the group stage, while

Janna and Kaskas carried Oman’s challenge into the knockout rounds.

Hockey team suffers second defeat in a row

Elsewhere, Oman’s hockey team suffered its second consecutive defeat, going down 7-0 to Malaysia at the Gifu Hockey Stadium.

Malaysia controlled the contest from the opening quarter, leading 1-0 before adding three goals in the second period.

They scored once more in the third before completing the victory with two goals in the final quarter.

Oman will look to respond when they face Uzbekistan in their third match on Thursday at 10am Muscat time.

Shooting pair finishes sixth

In the 10m mixed shooting qualification, Oman’s Al Anoud Al Khalili and Khalid Al Kalbani finished sixth among 17 teams with a score of 628.3 points.

Only the top four — China, India, South Korea and Japan — advanced to the medal stage.

Meanwhile, Oman’s beach volleyball ‘B’ pairing of Ahmed Al Hosni and Khalfan Al Maamari will seek their first victory in their second match when they take on Iran after opening their campaign with a defeat against Thailand.

JEDDAH

Sektioui warns of toughest test as Oman face Iraq in Gulf Cup opener

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman football team coach Tarik Sektioui has warned his players to expect a demanding start to their Gulf Cup 27 campaign when they face Iraq in Jeddah on Wednesday, describing their group as the tournament’s toughest and stressing the need for a strong performance from the outset. The match kicks off at 6.30pm, Oman time.

The Red Warriors meet Iraq at the Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Stadium in the opening Group A fixture, with hosts Saudi Arabia and Kuwait completing a highly competitive first day action. The top two teams will advance to the semi-finals of the eight-team tournament.

“We will play in a compact tournament that includes strong teams. We have a long-term vision to build a competitive team,” Sektioui said at the pre-match press conference on Tuesday.

The Moroccan coach, who took charge of Oman earlier this year, replacing Carlos Queiroz of Portugal, said his technical staff had studied Iraq’s previous results but cautioned that past meetings would offer only limited guidance against a side that has undergone significant changes.

“We take the team’s previous results into consideration, and historically we have had our battles and campaigns in past tournaments, but the situation is different now, and we are in the process of building a new team in a smart and different way,” he said.



Sektioui also underlined the quality of the opposition.

“We will face Iraq, a developed team, which made a number of changes to the line-up that took part in the World Cup, and we will play in the strongest group in the tournament,” he said.

The opening clash carries added significance for Oman, who are seeking a third Gulf Cup crown after triumphs in 2009 and 2017.

They have also been runners-up in the last two editions, losing the 2023 final to Iraq 3-2 after extra time before going down to Bahrain on penalties in the 2024 final.

Iraq, meanwhile, arrive as four-time champions, having lifted the trophy in 1979, 1984, 1988 and 2023. Their most recent triumph came against Oman in the dramatic 2023 final in Basra.

Iraq coach Graham Arnold ad-

mitted his side have had limited preparation time, saying they had only two days to work in Jeddah, but insisted his players were ready to compete.

“We have a mix of experienced and young players, and this gives us an extra dimension to produce big performances,” Arnold said. “We have new players, and this is the first time they will play in this tournament. We are focused on the future.”

Oman midfielder Ahmed Al Rawahi called for the team to harness the support of their travelling fans, while praising the facilities and hospitality in Saudi Arabia.

“Our fans have a special flavour in the Gulf tournaments, and we are working to make them happy and to compete strongly,” he said.

With both teams facing major changes and carrying ambitions of reaching the knockout stage, the opening encounter promises to be an immediate test of Sektioui’s new-look Oman side.



India women storm to Asian Games cricket gold

NISSHIN: India produced a dominant all-round display to sweep aside Sri Lanka by 147 runs in the Asian Games women’s cricket final in Nisshin on Tuesday, securing their second successive gold medal in the competition.

After being put into bat, India piled up a record Asian Games total of 216 for 3, led by a brilliant 79 from Smriti Mandhana and a blazing unbeaten 49 from Richa Ghosh. Sri Lanka then crumbled against India’s spin attack, folding for just 69 in the 16th over.

The victory gave India back-to-back Asian Games gold medals following their triumph in 2023, while extending their recent dominance over Sri Lanka after another victory in the Asia Cup final ten days earlier.

Brief scores: India 216/3 (Mandhana 79, Ghosh 49*, Shafali 48) beat Sri Lanka 69 (Athapaththu 29; Deepti 3/6, Shafali 2/3, Patil 2/9, Charani

2/13) by 147 runs.

Pakistan secure bronze

Also, Fatima Sana and Umm-e-Hani secured bronze for Pakistan. Bangladesh were in control of proceedings for the first half of Pakistan’s innings, but lost their grip once Fatima Sana got going.

At 67 for 5 in the 12th over, Pakistan were under the cosh against Bangladesh in their bronze-medal playoff at the Asian Games women’s competition. That’s when Fatima Sana walked out, slammed 45 in 30 balls, and gave Pakistan 145, which was 31 too many for Bangladesh, especially after Umm-e-Hani picked up three top- and middle-order wickets to end with 3 for 10 from her four overs.

Brief scores: Pakistan 145 for 8 (Sana 45, Feroza 31, Shorna 2-16, Nahida 2-21, Moni 2-27) beat Bangladesh 114 for 7 (Sharmin 46*, Umm-e-Hani 3-10) by 31 runs. - Agencies

OMAN OIL PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman crude oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by November 2026 reaching \$110.22. The price of Oman crude oil fell by \$2.19 from the price of Friday, which was \$112.41. -ONA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 7,560.32 points, up by 0.13% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.30% at 622.51 points. Al Anwar Ceramics, up 2.67%, was the top gainer while, Financial Corporation, down 8.91%, was the top loser.

Workshop calls for stronger government digital integration



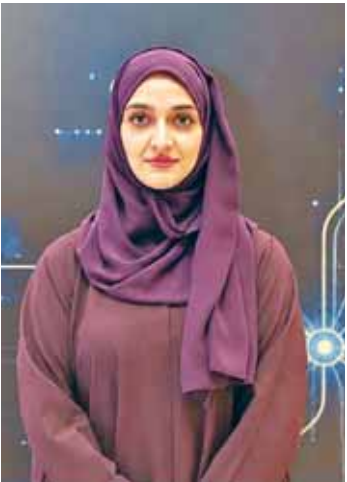
The workshop concluded with an emphasis on the importance of continued coordination among government entities, activating shared services, and leveraging available digital infrastructure, in support of developing government services and accelerating the digital transformation



SALALAH: The awareness workshop on “Shared Government Services and Electronic Integration,” organised by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology over two days in Salalah, recommended strengthening the utilisation of shared government services, emphasising the adoption of the Government Integration Platform for data exchange between entities, and designating clear technical points of contact, alongside leveraging the national infrastructure

in the areas of electronic integration and cloud computing. At the conclusion of its deliberations on Tuesday, the workshop also recommended enhancing the utilisation of the unified support contract for Microsoft and Oracle products, organising mechanisms for requesting technical support, conducting periodic inventories of needs and the actual use of licenses and rationalising them, while planning early for future needs and complying with licensing requirements. It further

recommended monitoring utilisation and cost indicators to achieve the best value from unified government agreements. Nuzha Mohammed Al Muharbi, Director of Shared Infrastructure at the Ministry, noted that “Oman Government Network” is one of the fundamental pillars of government digital infrastructure, as it provides a unified, secure, and reliable connectivity environment linking government entities and enabling them to access shared government services



and services, thereby reducing the need to establish separate integrations between entities, accelerating the development of digital services, raising their efficiency, and limiting duplication in requesting data from beneficiaries. The workshop’s closing day also included a presentation delivered by Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel), alongside a presentation by Otech on cloud services. The workshop concluded with an emphasis on the importance of continued coordination among government entities, activating shared services, and leveraging available digital infrastructure, in support of developing government services and accelerating the digital transformation trajectory in the Sultanate of Oman. The workshop comes within the efforts of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology to strengthen electronic integration among government entities and support digital transformation, in a manner that contributes to raising the efficiency of government services and improving the beneficiary experience. -ONA

INTENSIVE EIGHT-WEEK TRAINING

30 job seekers graduate from PDO’s Digital Innovation Programme

MUSCAT: Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) celebrated the graduation of 30 job seekers from the Digital Innovation Programme 2026, an intensive eight-week training programme aimed at developing digital skills and enhancing the readiness of Omani talent to enter the labour market. The programme was implemented from 2 August to 22 September, providing more than 5,000 training hours through an intensive training model with the participation of more than 40 trainers specialised in technical fields. The programme also enabled participants to gain practical experience, obtain professional certifications, and familiarise themselves with the latest technologies through interaction with a group of leading technology companies. The Digital Innovation Programme represents an evolution



in the approach adopted within job seeker training programmes, moving towards a model more closely aligned with sector needs, combining technical training with practical challenges, innovation, and professional development. The programme aimed to prepare a generation of qualified Omani digital talent to join the labour market, in line with the changing

requirements of the market. The programme was implemented in cooperation with a number of specialised technology companies and institutions, including Bahwan CyberTek, Microsoft, Dell, Cisco, SAP, Decoil, and Inspire, with these partnerships contributing to providing diverse expertise in technical fields and digital transformation. -ONA

OCCI & JORAN’S JEDCO MEET

Meeting discusses digital transition in tourism sector

MUSCAT: Represented by its Committee for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and its committee tasked with digital economy and artificial intelligence (AI), the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) on Tuesday received a delegation from Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO). The meeting was chaired by Sheikh Ahmed bin Amer Al Maslahi, Head of the OCCI’s SMEs Committee, and Imad Al Bdoor, Head of JEDCO’s Department of Arab and International Organisations. Held at the OCCI’s premises in Muscat, the session was attended by business owners from both countries. Discussions at the meeting focused on fostering digital transition in tourism sectors in member states of the Organisation of



Islamic Cooperation (OIC)—with special emphasis on SMEs operating in the tourism industry, encouraging the application of digital solutions and facilitating the exchange of successful experiences and best practices in the field.

The meeting also highlighted the OCCI’s experience in empowering SMEs and showcased the Chamber’s programmes and services related to digital transition, market access, partnerships and business development. -ONA

IFN FORUM

Meethaq Islamic highlights contributions to economic growth

MUSCAT: Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat participated in the 11th edition of the Islamic Finance News (IFN) Forum, held at the Grand Hyatt Muscat in collaboration between IFN and the Financial Services Authority (FSA) of the Sultanate of Oman. The forum was launched under the patronage of Abdullah Salem Al Salmi, Executive President of Financial Services Authority and it brought together a distinguished group of officials, experts, academics and specialists in Islamic banking and finance to discuss the latest development in the industry, future growth opportunities, and the role of Islamic finance in supporting Oman’s economic development and national priorities. The forum covered a range of topics including Leadership Outlook for Islamic Financial Services in Oman, Risk Mitigation for Islamic Capital Market Investments, Islamic Banking for Growth: SMEs, Consumers and Digital Delivery, Oman Investment Outlook: Vision 2040, Markets & the Future of Islamic Financial Services, Sukuk, Securitisation & Market Development: Building Depth in Oman’s Capital Market, and Public Markets, Real Assets, Digital Assets and Private Capital: Scaling Sharia-compliant Investments. Panel discussions and interactive sessions also provided a platform for participants to exchange perspectives on emerging



trends, market opportunities and the continued development of Sharia-compliant financial services. Sami Bait Rashid, Assistant General Manager of Meethaq Personal Banking, participated in the panel discussion “Islamic Banking for Growth: SMEs, Consumers and Digital Delivery”, where he discussed the role of Islamic banking in supporting economic growth through SME development, meeting evolving consumer needs and broadening access to banking services through digital channels. He also shared Meethaq’s experience of contributing to the national

economy through innovative, inclusive and Sharia-compliant financial solutions across financing, investment and capital markets. He further outlined several key trends shaping the future of the sector, including digital transformation, sustainable finance, the importance of strengthening cooperation and integration between financial institutions and regulatory authorities in building a resilient and progressive Islamic financial ecosystem aligned with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. Issa Khalfan Al Suqri, Head of Sharia Compliance & Audit Department at Meethaq Islamic

Banking, delivered a presentation on “Risk Mitigation for Islamic Capital Market Investments”, highlighting key considerations in managing risks associated with Sharia-compliant investments. Commenting on the occasion, Sami Bait Rashid, said: “Meethaq values the strong partnership it has maintained with government and private-sector institutions, which contribute to advancing shared objectives and strengthening the financial sector’s contribution to the national economy. Our participation in specialised events, and forums provides an important

platform to exchange knowledge, explore emerging trends and share perspective that contribute to the continued advancement of Islamic banking in Oman.” Beyond its participation in industry forums, Meethaq offers a comprehensive range of Sharia-compliant financial solutions designed to meet the diverse needs of its customers. These offerings adhere to the regulations and directives issued by the Central Bank of Oman and are subject to rigorous Sharia supervision and oversight by Meethaq’s Sharia Supervisory Board, ensuring full

compliance with Islamic principles. For individual customers, Meethaq provides a range of deposit and savings products, including current accounts, savings accounts, children savings accounts, and the Meethaq Savings Plan, alongside financing solutions covering personal finance, auto finance, housing finance, and financing for travel, education, marriage, and personal purchases. For institutional customers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), Meethaq provides tailored financial solutions such as current accounts, project finance, short- and long-term facilities, commercial financing and large-scale project funding. To further enhance customer experience, Meethaq has upgraded its core banking systems and enhanced its digital banking capabilities across multiple platforms, ensuring a seamless and secure journey for both individual and corporate customers. Meethaq operates the largest Islamic banking branch network in the Sultanate, comprising 30 branches across various governorates, supported by more than 64 ATMs and CDMs. In addition, Meethaq customers have access to over 900 Bank Muscat ATMs and CDMs and multifunctional kiosks, located across the Sultanate, ensuring customers enjoy convenient access to banking services and financial solutions.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher



Al Anwar Ceramics, up 2.67%, was the top gainer while, Financial Corporation, down 8.91%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,560.32 points, up by 0.13% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.30% at 622.51 points. Al Anwar Ceramics, up 2.67%, was the top gainer while, Financial Corporation, down 8.91%, 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 10,181 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 35.33 million, with more than 123.43 million shares changing hands. Out of 52 traded securities, 16 advanced, 16 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 516K while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 452K, followed by foreign investors for RO 64K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 13,599.63 points, up 0.27%. Prices of Bank Nizwa, Al Madina Investments, Al Madina Takaful, Oman Qatar Insurance, and Sohar International Bank were up by 1.28%, 1.25%, 0.91%, 0.54%, and 0.53% respectively. Prices of Financial Corporation, Takaful Oman, Oman United Insurance, and Bank Muscat were down by 8.91%, 1.67%, 0.31%, and 0.23% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 9,872.09 points, up 0.51%. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Al Maha Ceramics, Galfar Engineering, and Jazeera Steel Products were up by 2.67%, 1.89%, 0.65%, and 0.65% respectively. Services Index was down by -0.07% before closing at 2,995.21 points. Prices of National Gas, and Abraj Energy were up by 0.89%, and 0.25% respectively. Prices of Oman National Engineering, Shell Oman Marketing, Oman Telecom, OQ Gas Networks, and Phoenix Power were down by 2.03%, 1.33%, 0.52%, 0.46%, and 0.36% respectively.

United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	7,575.23	7,549.05	7,560.32	7,550.45	9.87	0.13%
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,606.02	13,551.07	13,599.63	13,563.39	36.24	0.27%
Industry Index	9,889.88	9,822.08	9,872.09	9,822.08	50.00	0.51%
Services Index	3,006.81	2,992.72	2,995.21	2,997.29	-2.09	-0.07%
MSX Shariah Index	623.95	620.59	622.51	620.64	1.87	0.30%
MSX TR INDEX	11,744.54	11,703.95	11,721.43	11,706.13	15.30	0.13%
FINANCIAL TR IDX	16,727.89	16,660.33	16,660.33	16,670.04	-9.71	-0.06%
0.27% INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	12,666.42	12,579.59	12,643.64	12,579.59	64.04	0.51%
SERVICES TR IDX	4,037.23	4,018.31	4,021.65	4,024.45	-2.80	-0.07%
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
123,436,438	35,331,583	10,181	39,320,354,298	16	16	20	52

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN AS ON 22/09/2026

RIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	435,568	68,315	38	0.156	0.158	0.156	0.158	0.156	0.002	1.282	0.158	0.157	0.158	0.100	353,438,579
OM00000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	1,530,732	323,057	759	0.211	0.213	0.209	0.211	0.209	0.002	0.957	0.211	0.213	0.211	0.000	1,099,045,043
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	23,290	2,569	6	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
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SF2)	17,877,809	4,535,468	1,826	0.252	0.255	0.252	0.254	0.252	0.002	0.794	0.254	0.255	0.254	0.040	878,710,676
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	13,788	12,823	28	0.930	0.930	0.930	0.930	0.924	0.006	0.849	0.930	0.928	0.930	0.100	116,155,103
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	53,243,141	10,770,496	2,071	0.189	0.191	0.188	0.190	0.189	0.001	0.529	0.190	0.188	0.190	0.100	1,458,441,078
OM00000002549	BANK DHOFAR	2,016,945	416,292	314	0.207	0.209	0.205	0.208	0.207	0.001	0.483	0.208	0.206	0.208	0.100	632,278,095
OM00000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	2,540	1,238	3	0.486	0.488	0.486	0.488	0.486	0.002	0.412	0.488	0.478	0.488	0.100	793,461,821
OM00000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,058,362	427,590	308	0.403	0.406	0.402	0.404	0.403	0.001	0.248	0.404	0.403	0.404	0.100	311,160,800
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	70,832	28,687	6	0.405	0.405	0.405	0.405	0.405	0.000	0.000	0.405	0.405	0.412	0.100	454,755,836
OM00000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	400	1,376	3	3.440	3.440	3.440	3.440	3.440	0.000	0.000	3.440	3.405	3.440	0.100	308,568,000
OM00000001749	OMAN CEMENT	7,031	4,330	3	0.615	0.618	0.615	0.618	0.618	0.000	0.000	0.618	0.615	0.650	0.100	204,479,335
OM00000002374	UNITED FINANCE	1,800	157	1	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.000	0.087	0.100	30,983,075
OM00000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	12,100	1,198	4	0.099	0.102	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.099	0.101	0.100	8,910,000
OM00000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	504,188	182,898	12	0.361	0.364	0.361	0.363	0.363	0.000	0.000	0.363	0.362	0.363	0.100	72,600,000
OM00000003661	VOLITAMP ENERGY	45,203	8,367	19	0.186	0.186	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.000	0.000	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.010	185,000,000
OM00000003968	OOREDOO	15,052	4,771	7	0.317	0.317	0.317	0.317	0.317	0.000	0.000	0.317	0.316	0.317	0.100	206,349,321
OM00000004735	SEMBICORP SALALAH	252,008	65,692	25	0.261	0.265	0.259	0.259	0.259	0.000	0.000	0.259	0.259	0.265	0.100	247,231,135
OM00000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	131,767	25,675	13	0.195	0.195	0.194	0.195	0.195	0.000	0.000	0.195	0.195	0.204	0.100	131,603,049
OM00000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	119,586	23,299	16	0.195	0.195	0.194	0.195	0.195	0.000	0.000	0.195	0.194	0.195	0.100	139,309,236
OM00000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	11,916,977	5,762,644	313	0.484	0.485	0.481	0.482	0.483	-0.001	-0.207	0.482	0.480	0.482	0.010	856,000,000
OM00000002796	BANK MUSCAT	10,519,424	4,475,571	1,171	0.427	0.429	0.425	0.427	0.428	-0.001	-0.234	0.427	0.470	0.427	0.100	330,205,231,545
OM00000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	77,600	24,620	10	0.316	0.335	0.315	0.320	0.321	-0.001	-0.312	0.335	0.335	0.335	0.100	33,600,000
OM00000003234	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	6,600	1,841	2	0.279	0.279	0.279	0.279	0.280	-0.001	-0.357	0.279	0.276	0.279	0.100	65,958,390
OM00000005963	PHOENIX POWER	165,968	45,582	16	0.273	0.278	0.273	0.274	0.275	-0.001	-0.364	0.274	0.274	0.287	0.100	400,752,800
OM00000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	11,107,352	2,423,337	2,616	0.219	0.219	0.217	0.218	0.219	-0.001	-0.457	0.218	0.220	0.218	0.100	944,078,015
OM00000003026	OMAN TELECOM	3,187,152	4,289,940	132	1.350	1.350	1.338	1.343	1.350	-0.007	-0.519	1.343	1.340	1.343	0.100	1,001,007,250,000
OM00000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	62,707	9,121	7	0.148	0.148	0.145	0.145	0.148	0.003	-2.027	0.145	0.147	0.147	0.100	21,750,000
0.100																
Total		28														

Parallel Market

OM00000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	7,175	1,110	5	0.155	0.155	0.154	0.154	0.150	0.004	2.667	0.154	0.149	0.165	0.100	33,880,000
OM00000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	19,000	5,150	3	0.272	0.272	0.270	0.270	0.265	0.005	1.887	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.100	14,850,000
OM00000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	1,476	117	2	0.079	0.081	0.079	0.081	0.080	0.001	1.250	0.081	0.075	0.082	0.100	3,491,100
OM00000001160	NATIONAL GAS	246,858	27,816	18	0.113	0.114	0.112	0.113	0.112	0.001	0.893	0.113	0.113	0.114	0.100	9,605,000
OM00000011151	OMIFCO	7,307,455	1,668,490	229	0.227	0.230	0.227	0.229	0.227	0.002	0.881	0.229	0.229	0.229	0.000	1,531,866,875
OM00000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	2,000	308	1	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.153	0.001	0.654	0.154	0.153	0.154	0.100	31,259,913
OM00000006979	OMAN QATAR INSURANCE	1,700	320	1	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.187	0.001	0.535	0.188	0.000	0.188	0.100	30,309,091
OM00000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	2,128	1,245	2	0.585	0.585	0.585	0.585	0.585	0.000	0.000	0.585	0.585	0.585	0.100	101,581,594
OM00000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	261	287	1	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	0.000	0.000	1.100	1.060	1.100	0.100	55,000,000
OM00000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	1,007,700	282,156	115	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.279	0.280	0.100	560,768,133
OM00000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	21,659	1,494	1	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.068	0.069	0.100	13,800,000
OM00000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	55,242	5,806	14	0.106	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.100	89,222,313
OM00000008868	THE PEARL REIF	1,218	218	1	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.000	0.000	0.179	0.179	0.180	0.100	105,867,202
OM00000010823	OMAN GATEWAY FUND	2,000	2,092	1	1.046	1.046	1.046	1.046	1.050	-0.004	-0.381	1.046	1.046	1.050	0.000	28,686,385
OM00000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	310	230	1	0.741	0.741	0.741	0.741	0.751	-0.010	-1.332	0.741	0.745	0.751	0.100	70,395,000
OM00000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	17,650	1,041	7	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.059	0.060	-0.001	-1.667	0.059	0.059	0.064	0.100	14,750,000
OM00000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	13,351	1,214	6	0.092	0.092	0.090	0.090	0.093	-0.003	-3.226	0.090	0.090	0.094	0.100	13,999,536
OM00000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	20,538	1,949	5	0.095	0.099	0.092	0.092	0.101	-0.009	-8.911	0.092	0.091	0.100	0.100	6,442,756
Total		18														

VALUED DEALER PARTNERS

Panasonic hosts Consumer Meet in Nizwa, unveils new AC series



NIZWA: Panasonic hosted a special Consumer Meet in Nizwa, bringing together Panasonic's valued dealer partners, esteemed customers, and consumers from across the region. The event was honoured by the presence of Takashi Sasaki, Director – Consumer Electronics Products, PMMAF, who joined the Panasonic team in engaging with the dealer community and consumers and sharing insights into Panasonic's latest innovations. The event brought together several of Nizwa's reputed dealers and esteemed customers, creating an interactive platform to strengthen relationships, understand market needs, and showcase Panasonic's latest air-conditioning technologies. Panasonic also highlighted its strong partnership with Omasco, its distributor partner in Oman, which has been sustained and valued for more than 50 years. The event was attended and supported by the Omasco team, whose active participation reflected the strength of the partnership and its shared commitment to serving customers and supporting Panasonic's presence across the Sultanate. A key highlight of the event was the training and launch of Panasonic's new EU, PU and SU Series air conditioners. The Panasonic team presented the advanced features and technologies incorporated into the new range, with

particular focus on the EU Series 2-in-1 air conditioners and the flexibility and convenience they offer consumers. The PU Series, with its distinctive Masrabiya-inspired design, was also showcased, highlighting how Panasonic combines modern air-conditioning technology with design elements inspired by the region's architectural heritage. Another important part of the event was a showcase of Panasonic's manufacturing capabilities in India, giving dealers and consumers an insight into the company's manufacturing processes, technology, quality control and commitment to maintaining Panasonic's global standards. The presentation demonstrated that, regardless of where Panasonic products are manufactured, the brand remains committed to delivering consistent quality and performance. The Consumer Meet served as an important platform for Panasonic to connect directly with its partners and consumers, introduce its latest innovations, and reinforce its commitment to delivering reliable, innovative and consumer-focused air-conditioning solutions in Oman. Panasonic continues to work closely with its dealer partners, the Omasco team and customers to bring advanced technology, thoughtful design and trusted quality to homes and businesses across the Sultanate.



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World leaders gather in New York for 81st UN General Assembly session

The General Debate, bringing leaders of the UN's 193 member states to the iconic green marble podium to outline their countries' priorities. The UN says nearly 130 heads of state and government are expected to attend the High-Level Week

NEW YORK: The world's diplomatic spotlight turns to New York on Tuesday as presidents, prime ministers and senior representatives from across the globe gather at United Nations Headquarters for the high-level week of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly, with wars, climate change, development, emerging technologies and the future of multilateralism set to dominate the agenda.

The General Debate begins on Tuesday and will run through September 26 before resuming on September 28, bringing leaders of the UN's 193 member states to the iconic green marble podium to outline their countries' priorities. The UN says nearly 130 heads of state and government are expected to attend the High-Level Week.

This year's gathering comes against a backdrop of widening geopolitical divisions and pressure on the multilateral system.



Presiding over the 81st session is UN General Assembly President Khalilur Rahman of Bangladesh, with the theme "Restoring trust, managing transformation: A United Nations that delivers for all."

For India, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is leading the Indian delegation and will represent New Delhi during the General Assembly's high-level proceedings.

His engagements in New York have already included a series of meetings with foreign counterparts, including discussions on regional conflicts, economic partnerships and multilateral cooperation.

US President Donald Trump is also set to address the Assembly on Tuesday, bringing Washington's positions to the centre of the opening day.

His UNGA schedule comes amid a packed round of bilateral meetings with world leaders, including discussions on the conflicts in

Ukraine and the Middle East.

French President Emmanuel Macron is another major voice at the General Debate. Macron has already held talks with Trump in New York, with the two discussing Ukraine as well as energy markets and security in the region.

While the General Debate provides the most visible stage, the UN says much of the diplomacy of High-Level Week takes place away from the chamber, through bilateral and multilateral meetings that allow leaders to engage allies, partners and rivals in a single location.

For several days, New York effectively becomes a diplomatic crossroads, with discussions ranging from conflicts and international security to trade, energy, development and emerging technologies.

The UN has identified a broad set of issues for the week, including progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, climate action, pandemic preparedness,

sea-level rise, racism and nuclear disarmament.

The focus on development comes as countries approach the final stretch towards the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals.

The annual SDG Moment, held on September 18, focused on accelerating progress on the 17 goals adopted in 2015, covering areas from poverty and hunger to education, clean water and energy. The UN has placed particular emphasis on practical solutions that can be expanded and replicated.

Climate change will take centre stage on September 23, when UN Secretary-General António Guterres convenes a high-level event on climate action and the just transition.

The discussions are expected to focus on accelerating the renewable-energy transition, strengthening climate finance and supporting communities already facing the consequences of a warming planet.

A separate high-level meeting on September 24 will focus on sea-level rise, an issue of particular concern for small island developing states and low-lying coastal communities.

On September 25, world leaders will turn to another global vulnerability: preparedness for the next pandemic.

The UN's high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response will examine how countries can strengthen health systems, improve readiness and build a more equitable international response to future public-health emergencies.

The agenda will then move to issues of racial justice and equality, with a September 28 meeting marking the 25th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The high-level week will conclude on September 29 with a meeting focused on the total elimination of nuclear weapons, which the UN identifies as its

highest disarmament priority.

Underlying the week's crowded agenda is a larger question: how effectively can countries cooperate when geopolitical competition is intensifying and global crises increasingly overlap?

The UN has framed this year's gathering around restoring trust and managing transformation. Secretary-General António Guterres, whose second and final term ends on December 31, 2026, has also invoked the opening words of the UN Charter as a reminder of the organisation's founding purpose: "We the peoples."

As leaders take turns at the podium this week, the speeches will offer competing visions of a world facing war, economic uncertainty, climate pressure and technological disruption. But the real test of the gathering may lie beyond the speeches — in whether those differences can translate into cooperation on problems that increasingly cross borders. — Agencies

FROM SEPT 24-27



Heavy rain alert issued in Nepal

KATHMANDU: Nepal's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) has issued an alert over a low-pressure system developing over the Bay of Bengal that could bring heavy rain across parts of the country from September 24 to 27, with Lumbini, Madhesh and Koshi provinces likely to receive higher-intensity rainfall.

The department has urged people to remain alert, particularly those living in the southern plains and areas along the Koshi provinces, as the weather system is expected to strengthen while moving west-northwest.

Barun Paudel, a senior meteorologist at the DHM, said the department was continuously monitoring the developing system.

"A low-pressure area has developed, and it is gradually strengthening and is expected to develop into a depression. It could reach the depression stage by today or tomorrow," Paudel said.

The DHM said the low-pressure area, which formed over the northern Andaman Sea and surrounding waters, was currently over the central-eastern Bay of Bengal and was expected to strengthen as it moves west-northwest.

The department said the system had not yet developed into a cyclone, although it could intensify into a cyclonic storm as it gains moisture and energy.

Its effects could reach Nepal from Wednesday, with moderate rain expected in parts of Koshi, Bagmati and Gandaki provinces. Rain was also possible in parts of Gandaki and Lumbini provinces between September 25 and 27, the department said.

The weather alert comes as Nepal continues its search, rescue and relief operations following the Rasuwa-Bhote Koshi floods. According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority's situation report of Monday, a total of 1,451 bodies have been recovered or rescued in connection with the floods. Of these, 1,292 have been "safely stored underground", while 112 have been handed over to families.

DNA testing is being conducted on samples received at two forensic laboratories in Kathmandu. A total of 1,957 samples have been received at the Nepal Police Central Forensic Science Laboratory in Samakhushi, while the National Forensic Science Laboratory has received 1,715 samples.

International forensic expert teams are also assisting Nepal, including 19 DNA experts from India, two fingerprint experts from Singapore, three DNA experts from South Korea, three fingerprint experts from the United States and 15 DNA experts from China. — ANI

KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

Smart technology boosts protection of rhinos at South Africa's historic reserve

JOHANNESBURG: High above the thick bushland of South Africa's Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, a drone glided through the sky. On a handheld monitor below, footage revealed several massive rhinos resting close together among the bushes.

The operator called the drone an "eye in the sky." At night, it can scan areas beyond the view of rangers on the ground, while during the day, it can help conservation teams locate rhinos for monitoring and veterinary work.

For one of Africa's oldest rhino sanctuaries, the view from above is part of a wider effort to change how its rhinos are protected.

Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Province has played a central role in the survival of the southern white rhino.

A remnant population was preserved in the area in the late 19th century, when the subspecies was close to extinction. Beginning in the 1960s, conservationists moved rhinos from the reserve to other protected areas, helping establish new populations in South Africa and beyond.

Cedric Coetzee, senior advisor for rhino protection at Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, the provincial conservation authority, described the park as the "original gene pool" of the southern white rhino, high-



lighting its importance in the subspecies' recovery.

More than a century after the animals found refuge here, protecting them has become a different kind of struggle. Poachers continue to enter reserves in search of rhino horn, forcing conservation teams to watch over vast areas of difficult terrain, often at night.

The estimated global white rhino population fell from 17,464 in 2023 to 15,752 in 2024, according to the International Rhino Foundation's 2026 State of the Rhino report. South Africa, home to the world's largest rhino population, continues to face heavy pressure from poaching.

At Hluhluwe-iMfolozi, the response increasingly begins before a ranger reaches the scene.

Hundreds of cameras deployed across the reserve can transmit

images of unusual activity, while nearly 20 km of fencing in key areas is being upgraded with smart technology.

"If you intrude into it, it will send an alert through to our operations center," Coetzee said.

Information from cameras, sensors and smart fencing is brought together at the park's operations center, helping staff assess potential threats and coordinate a response.

The park still relies on what Coetzee called "boots on the ground"—rangers conducting patrols, checking fences, operating observation and listening posts, and responding when an intrusion is detected. Tracking dogs can follow suspects, while helicopters help move teams across the reserve.

Technology is also helping con-

servationists keep closer watch over the rhinos themselves.

During an August dehorning operation at the park, Dumisani Zwane, manager of game capture at Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, coordinated with a veterinary team in the bush to safely immobilize a young white rhino. The team carefully removed part of its horn to reduce the incentive for poachers to target it and fitted the animal with a tracking device for subsequent monitoring.

"It's not a silver bullet that will fix all the problems of poaching," Zwane said, adding that dehorning works hand in hand with other measures.

Rhino horns grow back, meaning conservation teams must locate the animals and repeat the procedure. Under the current threat, the park is carrying out the work annually, Zwane said.

Figures released by South Africa's Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in February showed that the number of rhinos poached in the park fell from 198 in 2024 to 63 in 2025.

Coetzee said the park began investing more heavily in technology and revamping its anti-poaching units in 2024, while improving resource coordination and expanding dehorning operations. — DW

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

MEDICAL SOURCES

Gaza death toll rises to 73,919 since start of Israeli war

GAZA: Medical sources in the Gaza Strip announced on Tuesday that the death toll has risen to 73,919 and the number of injured to 174,977 since the start of the aggression on the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023.

The sources added that, over the past 24 hours, the bodies of five slain people (four newly killed and one who succumbed to previous injuries) and 25 injured individuals were brought to hospitals in the

Gaza Strip. The total number of fatalities since the ceasefire on October 11 stands at 1,399, with 4,863 injuries recorded; additionally, 834 bodies have been recovered from under the rubble.

Medical sources noted that a number of victims remain trapped under the rubble and on the streets, as ambulance and rescue teams are unable to reach them.

Meanwhile Israeli occupation forces continue to keep the Sheikh

Sa'd military checkpoint, located southeast of occupied Jerusalem, closed for the third consecutive day.

The Jerusalem Governorate reported that occupation forces are maintaining the closure of the military checkpoint—which isolates the village of Sheikh Sa'd from its surroundings—thereby preventing dozens of students from reaching their schools in the southeast of occupied Jerusalem.

Occupation forces are intensifying military measures by erecting checkpoints and installing iron gates across occupied Jerusalem as part of efforts to restrict the movement of Palestinian residents.

By the middle of this year, the occupation had established approximately 930 permanent checkpoints across the various governorates of the West Bank. — WAPA

Major projects drive growth across South Al Sharqiyah



Various roads, fisheries and tourism projects boost development in the governorate

SUR: The wilayats of Jaalan Bani Bu Ali, Jaalan Bani Bu Hassan and Al-Kamil Wa Al-Wafi in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate are witnessing accelerated development momentum through the implementation of a package of development, service and investment projects that embody the Government's efforts to develop infrastructure, enhance quality of life, and support food security, tourism, and services sectors.

In the Wilayat of Jaalan Bani Bu Ali, a group of projects in the roads sector is ongoing. These include the design and paving of the commercial and coastal road in the Asilah area (Phase Two) at a completion rate of 45 percent and a cost of OMR799,998; the construction of internal roads in the Wilayat of Jaalan Bani Bu Ali – Coastal at 60 percent and a cost of OMR2,261,730; the construction of internal roads in the Wilayat of Jaalan Bani Bu Ali – Centre at 90 percent and a cost estimated at OMR2,431,792; and the development of the waterfront in Al-Ashkharah at 64 percent and a cost of OMR5,852,000.

The projects also include the rehabilitation of road efficiency in the industrial area in the Wilayat of Jaalan Bani Bu Ali at 85 percent and a cost of OMR500,000; consultancy studies for water drainage in Sayh Sandah area at 95 percent; and the maintenance of roads damaged by the monsoon depression in the Wilayat of Jaalan Bani Bu Ali at 98 percent and a cost estimated at OMR697,338, bringing the total cost to OMR12,686,663.

In the education sector, the projects include the restoration of Hisham bin Al-Aas Basic Education School, Al-Makarem Basic Education School, and Asilah Basic Education School; partial maintenance at Al-Ruwais Boys' School; and the restoration of Sayh Sandah School in the Wilayat of Jaalan Bani Bu Ali.

In development projects, a project to construct a school comprising 40 shared classrooms for grades (1-4) is being implemented at a completion rate of 79 percent, and a project to construct a school comprising 40 classrooms for girls for grades (5-8) at 13 percent.

In the health sector, the completion rate for the project to construct Al Falah Hospital reached 60 percent, while the completion rate for the project to construct a health centre in the Wilayat of Jaalan Bani Bu Ali reached 77 percent.

In the agriculture sector, the projects include the Wadi Saal project at a cost of OMR2,993,830 and a completion rate of 100 percent; consultancy services for the design and supervision of the rehabilitation of fish landing sites at Al-Daffah, Ruways, and Suwaih at a cost estimated at OMR447,985 and a completion rate of 100 percent; and design and implementation works to mitigate the problem of sand deposition at the Al-Ashkharah fishing harbour at a



cost of OMR2,995,125 and a completion rate of 10 percent.

The projects also include the maintenance of a number of aflaj (ancient irrigation system or water channels) at a total cost of OMR6,924,751. In aquaculture projects, a project for the cultivation of aquatic organisms (whitelleg shrimp) in Jaalan Bani Bu Ali was implemented at a cost of OMR17 million and a completion rate of 100 percent.

In the environment sector, the Ghaf Trees Natural Reserve project was implemented over an area of 130 square kilometres.

In the Wilayat of Jaalan Bani Bu Hassan, the projects include the construction of internal roads in the Wilayat of Jaalan Bani Bu Hassan at a completion rate of 95 percent and a cost of OMR1,636,771; the maintenance of roads damaged by the monsoon depression in the Wilayat of Jaalan Bani Bu Hassan at 95 percent and a cost of OMR399,989; and the construction of the Qahwan track in the Wilayat of Jaalan Bani Bu Hassan at a completion rate of 5 percent and a cost estimated at OMR1,882,500.

In the education sector, the projects include the construction of a school comprising 34 shared classrooms for grades (1-12) and partial maintenance at Al-Asalah School



for grades (1-7).

In the aquaculture sector, a project for the cultivation of aquatic organisms (whiteleg shrimp) in Jaalan Bani Bu Hassan was implemented at a cost of OMR21,500,000 and a completion rate of 100 percent, along with the maintenance of some aflaj at a total cost of OMR22,154,188. In the environment sector, the Ghaf Park

project was implemented in Falaj Al-Mashayikh.

In the Wilayat of Al-Kamil Wa Al-Wafi, the projects include the development of the tourist facility in Seeq area, the development of the Al-Hirah area, the construction of internal roads in the Wilayat of Al-Kamil Wa Al-Wafi, the maintenance of roads damaged by the monsoon depression, and

the construction of a concrete road in the Hawar area, at a total cost of OMR2,584,788.

In the roads sector, the completion rate for the project to complete the dualization of Sultan Turki bin Said Road (Al-Kamil Wa Al-Wafi – Sur) reached 90 percent, at a cost of OMR71,624,397.

In the agriculture sector, the completion rate for the smart agriculture project for vegetable production reached 100 percent at a cost of OMR6,500,000, while the completion rate for the project to expand fig cultivation reached 100 percent at a cost of OMR282,000. In the environment sector, the projects include Al-Salil Natural Park Reserve over an area of 220 square kilometres.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources had signed an agreement for the provision of consultancy services for the design and supervision of the Fish Industries City project in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate, at a total value of OMR1,637,000. The agreement provides for the consultancy firm to undertake all specialized technical studies and prepare the engineering designs and studies necessary to ensure the project's implementation in accordance with the highest standards of quality and operational efficiency.

This project is one of the strategic and vital projects in the Sultanate of Oman for developing infrastructure, supporting the growth of fish industries, and enhancing the sector's added value, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 in diversifying national income sources and developing the governorates.

Dr. Yahya Badr Al Maawali, Governor of South Al Sharqiyah, affirmed that the Governorate's economic, tourism, logistical, and environmental assets constitute a fundamental pillar for enhancing comprehensive and sustainable development.

In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), he said that the coming phase requires strengthening integration among various government entities, the private sector, and the community, continuing to work in a spirit of one team, and focusing on initiatives and projects with sustainable impact, thereby contributing to diversifying economic activities and maximizing the benefit from the Governorate's competitive advantages.

In his turn, Anwar Hamad Al Sunani, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry Branch in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate, said that the Branch is working to enhance the private sector's contribution to economic development in the Governorate, based on the Chamber's role in safeguarding its interests, expressing its aspirations, enabling its institutions of all sizes to grow and expand, and strengthening partnership and integration with government entities in service of the local economy and the achievement of comprehensive development objectives.

He added that South Al Sharqiyah Governorate possesses a diverse base of economic and investment assets, spanning the industrial, fisheries, tourism, and logistical sectors, along with promising opportunities in the fields of food security, renewable energy, and manufacturing industries.

He said that the Branch attaches importance to raising awareness of these assets, promoting the opportunities associated with them, and working to attract quality investments capable of creating added value, providing job opportunities, and enhancing local content.

He noted that the Chamber's Branch in the Governorate is keen to ensure that its programmes and initiatives are launched from the actual needs of the private sector across the Governorate's various wilayats, through direct communication with business owners and specialised committees, organizing meetings with government entities, hosting investors and trade delegations, and promoting available opportunities, thereby contributing to stimulating commercial and investment activity and establishing quality projects that benefit the Governorate and the local community.

He affirmed that achieving sustainable economic development requires strengthening partnership and integration between the public and private sectors. He explained that the Branch will continue its role in building bridges of communication between the business community and relevant entities, supporting the growth of institutions, enhancing their competitiveness and contribution to diversifying the economy, and developing the Governorate's various wilayats. – ONA

SPORTS

FIFA PRESIDENT

Infantino says he is open to talks over FIFA reform

ZURICH: FIFA president Gianni Infantino has proposed an external review of how world football's governing body operates, and says he is open to reform.

In a letter sent to members of the FIFA Council and all of its national associations, Infantino explains the independent process would "recommend potential improvements".

Before a meeting of the Council next month, Infantino says he is also suggesting a consultation on "how FIFA's decision-making can be further strengthened".

This would include proposals on the role of the president, as well as "practical ways to strengthen transparency, participation and accountability in major strategic initiatives".

Infantino has come under in-

creasing pressure over his aborted FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) proposal. That would have involved selling stakes in the World Cup and other competitions to private investors, and it sparked a major backlash.

In what appears to be a conciliatory gesture, Infantino wrote: "Over recent weeks, I have taken time to listen before writing to you", and says the consultation will be with confederations, member associations and "relevant stakeholders".

He insists that the FFE plan "did not involve relinquishing FIFA's control or authority over sporting decisions. Obviously!"

His letter adds: "The proposal entered the public domain before FIFA's planned institutional process had been completed and be-



fore it could be presented in full to the Council and the member associations. I recognise that, without the full context, this caused concern and created the impression that decisions had already been taken. They had not."

Infantino also claims that "democratic processes, independence and sporting authority were never

for sale. They are not for sale and never will be."

He states he remains "fully committed to leading FIFA and confident in what we can achieve together".

Infantino's letter comes after UEFA and CONCACAF - the confederations for Europe and North America, Central America and the Caribbean - demanded FIFA pays \$10m to all 211 members from its cash reserves.

FFE would have meant creating a new company to manage commercial and ticketing rights of all FIFA competitions, including World Cups, with 21% sold off to a private investment company.

Infantino claims that the collapse of FFE "does not diminish our ambition or our responsibility to invest more of FIFA's success

back into football.

"We will continue to explore sustainable ways to grow FIFA's resources and expand development and solidarity support for every member association," he adds in the letter.

"What changes is not the ambition, but the strength of the process through which major ideas are developed, tested and decided."

"The progress we have made over the past decade gives us a strong foundation for the future. It also gives us the confidence to examine whether our governance remains suited to the scale and complexity of the decisions ahead."

Infantino will stand for election for a fourth time in March 2027, with his opponents having until 18 November to find an alternative candidate. - Agencies

DUBAI-BASED FORWARD



Iran recall star striker Azmoun following World Cup omission

TEHRAN: Iran's star striker Sardar Azmoun was recalled to the national team on Monday, four months after being controversially left out of the World Cup roster.

Azmoun was omitted by coach Amir Ghalenoei in May, reportedly because of a social media post that angered Iranian authorities during the ongoing war with the US and Israel.

Ghalenoei has now recalled the Dubai-based forward, who has scored 57 goals in 91 international appearances, to his 26-man roster for friendlies against Uzbekistan on Thursday and Russia five days later.

"To be honest, I don't know how to put my feelings into words," Azmoun, 31, wrote on social media. "From 2014 until today, I've lived so much in this jersey."

"I came, I went, I was left out, I

came back ... but never, not even when I wasn't there, did I ever feel separated from the national team."

At the World Cup, Iran drew with New Zealand, Belgium and Egypt and narrowly missed out on advancing to the knockout stages for the first time in seven appearances.

"I missed the national team more than I ever showed," said Azmoun, who was pictured meeting Mehdi Taj, president of the Iranian Football Federation, on Sunday. "Today, when I found out I'd been called up again, my happiness was just like the first time."

"I am not angry with anyone, nor do I have anything to prove. I'm just glad I have the chance again to fight with all my heart for the country I love."

Iran are preparing for the Asian Cup, which kicks off in Saudi Arabia on January 7. - Agencies

Atletico, coached by Diego Simeone, received two million views on X within two hours of posting two messages about the Real Madrid coach

MADRID: Atletico Madrid have hit back at Jose Mourinho after the Real Madrid boss arrived at his post-derby news conference on Sunday carrying printouts of screenshots displaying two incidents he believed should have resulted in red cards for Atletico.

Mourinho accused the officials of making key errors after Real were beaten 2-1 by Atletico, claiming the hosts should have been handed two red cards in the first half.

On Monday, Atletico posted twice on their X account, the first being a video showing a sheet of paper coming out of a printer with the words #StopAcosoArbitalYA, meaning "stop referee harassment now".

A second post showed a picture of Mourinho at the news conference with the same message.

The response from Atletico, whose team are coached by Diego Simeone, received two million

Atletico Madrid hit back at Real's Mourinho over referee complaints



views on X within two hours of it being posted.

Atletico often use their social media accounts to respond to rivals, repeatedly posting on X this summer to ridicule Barcelona over

their pursuit of Atletico's talisman Julian Alvarez.

Alongside Mourinho's post-match claims, the match report published on Real's website said that the derby loss was de-

cided because of "dreadful refereeing", by Ortiz Arias.

Mourinho's side had defender Dean Huijsen sent off early in the second half, when the game was goalless, for pulling down Atletico's Giuliano Simeone just inside the penalty area.

The match outcome was Real's second defeat of the season, having lost 1-0 to Real Betis earlier in September.

"We can skip the press conference because the story of the match is right here," Mourinho said as he showed media the printed images on sheets of A4 paper on Sunday.

"Those were two clear red cards. Given the difficulties we faced afterwards playing 11 against 10, we can only imagine what 50 minutes of 11 against nine would have been like."

"So I'll just have to limit myself to hugging my players, who gave it their all and played a first half, showed great class and character, setting us up perfectly to win the second half."

Simeone, when asked to respond to Mourinho's refereeing rant, said he was always respectful of everyone else's opinions.

"I understand that we're in a privileged position with a lot of public scrutiny, as coaches, and whether it's Mourinho, [Barcelona manager Hansi] Flick, [Real Betis boss Manuel] Pellegrini, me, or anyone else, we need to be careful about what we say," he said.

"We have to know how to respect others, the referees, our colleagues. And when someone crosses that line of respect, it's not right - you can't cross that line." - Agencies

Messi to wear special jersey for Argentina farewell game



MIAMI: Lionel Messi will wear a special light-blue and gold kit in his final international game for Argentina against Benin on October 6 at the Estadio Monumental in Buenos Aires.

Messi announced his international retirement in August shortly after leading Argentina to the World Cup final, where it lost to Spain 1-0.

"One last match....A jersey for a lifetime," Messi said in a post on Instagram, while revealing the jersey.

The 39-year-old will walk away from the national team as one of its most decorated players, having scored 125 goals, including 21 at

the World Cup.

Messi's list of international accolades with the Albiceleste is second to none, which includes a World Cup trophy, two Copa America titles and an Olympic Gold medal.

From first observations, the jersey contains a number of elements that symbolise Messi's career in different ways. It moves away from the traditional white-and-blue stripes, featuring gold lettering, a large, shaded Sun of May taking up most of the space on the back, and sleek black-and-gold detailing along the sleeve edges. - Agencies

SPAIN COACH



De la Fuente extends deal

MADRID: Spain men's football team head coach Luis de la Fuente has signed a contract extension till 2032, the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) said on Monday.

The 65-year-old took charge of the side from Luis Enrique, following the team's exit from the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar. He has since then guided Spain to the UEFA Nations League 2022-23, Euro 2024 and FIFA World Cup 2026 titles.

This will be the longest tenure ever by a Spanish head coach, with De la Fuente set to lead the nation at three more major tournaments: the 2028 Euros, the 2030 World Cup and the 2032 Euros. "We're talking about the most successful head coach in the history of the national team, and after fourteen years with us, this is something Luis de la Fuente deserves, a long-term future at the RFEF," said Rafael Louzan, chair of the RFEF's board of directors. - Agencies

NATIONS LEAGUE

Returning Italy coach Mancini seeks to win back angry fans

MILAN: New Italy coach Roberto Mancini is hoping to win back the fans who are still upset with him for bolting on the national team three years ago, as he prepares for his first matches back in charge.

Mancini was reappointed in July and again tasked with revitalising an Italy team in crisis, after the Azzurri missed out on the World Cup for a third successive time.

Mancini led Italy to the European Championship title in 2021 but shockingly resigned as Italy coach in August 2023, taking over Saudi Arabia's national team two weeks later.

"I'm not in credit (because of the trophy) because that's in the past, it doesn't count for anything," Mancini said on Monday.

"I think that when a fan feels betrayed, he has the right to be upset, and you have to accept it. I think to win them back, we must do things well and bring the national team back to where it belongs so things will settle."

First up for Mancini is four Nations League matches. Italy start at home to Belgium on Friday before playing Türkiye three days later, then France on October 2 and Türkiye again on October 5.

Mancini has called up 34 players and his squad includes a mix of experienced players — some of who were part of the Euro 2020 win-



ning run — and eight potential debutants. Two of those experienced players have already withdrawn from the squad, with Federico Dimarco and Bryan Cristante being replaced by Matteo Ruggeri and Samuele Ricci.

"I think it's right to have young players so we can get to know them directly, because that's the most important thing to have a very strong squad in the future," Mancini said. "So we have to be quick to understand who could be the players that could be with us for the next four years."

"I want a team that dominates, that plays well, a team that manages to always give the maximum. You can't always win, obviously, but we will try to start with doing this, that's how you win. We are all very positive."

While Mancini expects the more experienced players to help the youngsters settle in, he hopes the youths will bring a bit of "carefreeness" and "do things on the field that when you're older you don't do because you think too much."

And he admits there's another bonus to the new faces: that they don't have the shadow of failure hanging over them from the World Cup qualifiers. "There are many young players who weren't there, who are here for the first time," Mancini said. "They are very happy to be here and want to give their all for the national team."

The Nations League Finals take place next June, a year before the European Championship. The Euro 2028 final will be held at Wembley, where Mancini and Italy triumphed in 2021. - Agencies

India survive Japan scare in thrilling Sano T20I contest

Chasing 33 to win in five overs, Japan came very close, losing by only 2 runs

SANO: India held their nerve in a thrilling five-over shootout in Sano on Tuesday, defending just 32 to beat Japan by two runs in an one-off T20I contest that went down to the final over.

After heavy rain disrupted the preceding two days, the match was reduced to five overs a side, with India eventually making 32 for four after choosing to bat first. Japan came within touching distance of the target, finishing on 30 for three.

The result gave India the record for the smallest total successfully defended in a five-over T20, but it was anything but comfortable.

The pitch, heavily affected by the earlier rain, was extremely slow and turned sharply, while the outfield made scoring boundaries difficult. All 10 overs were bowled by spinners and only four boundaries were struck throughout the match.

Early setback

India's innings suffered an early setback when Abhishek Sharma was dismissed for a golden duck, attempting a shovel-sweep off the first ball he faced.

With the top order struggling to find the boundary, Shreyas Iyer changed tack and anchored the innings with a composed 16 off 12 balls. Japan's bowlers, led by Hara-Hinze, who took two for 17, kept India under sustained pressure.

The hosts then mounted a spirited chase, slipping to 8 for two after two overs before recovering strongly. Kadowaki-Fleming top-scored with 12 as Japan added 10 runs from the third over and seven from the fourth, leaving them



needing eight from the final over. Axar Patel, who had already played a key role with the ball, was entrusted with the decisive over and kept his cool to close out the contest. He finished with two overs for seven runs.

Axar had earlier conceded only two runs in his opening over, while a direct hit from Ishan Kishan at deep square leg produced a close run-out of Lachlan Yamamoto-Lake.

Tense finish

The tense finish was heightened by disputed wide calls. Japanese umpire Chris Thurgate repeatedly called leg-side wides, including one involving left-hander Alexander Shirai-Patmore, who had attempted reverse hits.

One call reduced Japan's target to five from four balls before New Zealand umpire Chris Brown intervened and overturned the decision.

Japan still had a chance, but Axar's accuracy on the sharply turning surface denied them the winning blow.

India's narrow victory capped a remarkable contest in difficult conditions, with Japan pushing the visitors all the way despite being set only 33 to win.

Brief scores: Five overs a side: India 32 for 4 (Iyer 16, Hara-Hinze 2-17) beat Japan 30 for 3 (Kadowaki-Fleming 12, Washington 2-13) by two runs. - Agencies



India skipper Iyer hails Japan's 'impeccable' show

SANO: India T20I captain Shreyas Iyer hailed an "impeccable" and "outstanding" performance from the Japan side, who gave the visitors a mighty scare in a five-over shootout in Sano on Tuesday.

"The attitude and approach the Japanese team showed today was impeccable and kudos to them," Iyer said after India won a nail-biting T20I by two runs.

"Their approach was outstanding. So I'm sure that they are on the right track right now and they've got a couple more matches against Afghanistan and Nepal [at the Asian Games]; they would be brilliant."

"Well, it was turning square, and honestly speaking, it was a very difficult wicket to bat on," Iyer said. "We saw the openers as well, who are used to scoring runs consistently, unable to gauge the pace of the spin."

"I decided when I got in that it's important that I need to take singles and doubles and rotate the strike as much as possible," said Iyer, who was also named



player of the match. "I also interacted with the batsman who came in with me, but it was difficult to do that as well."

"But honestly speaking, I just decided that I would play on the merit of the ball and plan accordingly. If the ball is turning and rolling a bit, I'll just use the pace of the ball and hold myself at the back to match for singles and doubles. So that worked out pretty well."

"You see, I always keep saying that in a five-over game, it can go anywhere. It doesn't mat-

ter how good a team you are, because the opposition is also competitive."

Iyer hasn't had the best run in his short captaincy career, losing the T20I series on the road against Ireland and England, before registering wins against Zimbabwe and Afghanistan.

He will next lead the side at the Asian Games, with India's matches scheduled to begin on September 28 in Nisshin. While Iyer said that India is obviously looking to bring home another gold medal, he wants to take it

"one step at a time."

"It's a pleasure to be leading the Indian team," he said. "With the performances you've seen in the past, winning so many trophies, it's a great responsibility. But with responsibility comes pressure and I feel that I thrive under pressure. So it's a great role for me and I always feel that the captaincy is something that gets the best out of me. So always loving to explore this."

"It was a long travel for us to Sano; it took us three hours to reach here but at the back of our minds, we had only one thing: we want to play the game, excite the crowd who has come to see the game and the supporters who've been striving to see to it that this match was organised."

"Even though it was five overs, I personally feel that at least we got a game to see and to honestly experience such a great performance from the Japanese team and also Indian players as well. So yeah, overall, I feel it was an exciting game and yeah, honestly, they were also brilliant with their performances." - Agencies

TWO-TIME WORLD CUP WINNER



England fast bowler Wood retires from internationals

LONDON: England fast bowler Mark Wood has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect on Tuesday. The 36-year-old, one of the fastest bowlers to ever play for England, has been plagued by injuries throughout his career.

The Durham paceman only returned to action in the first Ashes Test in Perth in November after 15 months out with an elbow injury followed by knee surgery.

However, he bowled just 11 overs before suffering swelling in the same left knee and subsequently flew home for treatment. He has not played for England since.

"Although this may not come as a surprise given the past year, it just feels like a natural time at the end of my contract," Wood said in a statement on social media.

"I've always tried to be resilient and come back from injury to prove people wrong and show everyone what I can do. Unfortunately,

this time I lost the battle.

"On medical advice, Test cricket and 50-over cricket are not possible, so the England dream has slowly been ground out of me over the last year. "Playing for England has been the greatest honour I could have ever wished for and a dream come true."

Wood added that he hopes to continue playing cricket in some capacity.

Wood took 119 wickets in 38 Tests after making his debut in 2015, and that summer he helped win back the Ashes on home soil.

However, he has suffered a string of ankle, knee and elbow injuries during his career.

In a bid to limit the stress on his body, he lengthened his run-up in 2018, which allowed him to play key roles in some of England's biggest successes in recent years.

The altered run-up did not impact his pace and he was part of the team that lifted the 2019 50-over World Cup, where he took 18 wick-

ets. He was also in the squad that won the T20 World Cup in 2022, but missed the end stages of the tournament with a calf problem.

In white-ball cricket, Wood retires as England's sixth-highest wicket-taker in men's T20s with 54 from 38 matches, and he took 80 scalps in 70 one-day internationals.

Wood played a key role in helping England come from 2-0 down in the 2023 Ashes, with his return to the team - and blistering spells of bowling - helping them level the series.

"It's been a privilege to watch the latter part of a great career," said Rob Key, managing director of England men's cricket.

"To have been a point of difference in Ashes series wins, two World Cup wins, and to have thrilled crowds every time he got the ball in his hand is something very few players achieve. He can look back with enormous pride on a career very well spent." - Agencies

FORMULA ONE

Red Bull's Isack Hadjar to return at Azerbaijan GP

LONDON: Red Bull driver Isack Hadjar will return at this week's Azerbaijan Grand Prix after missing the past three races with a wrist injury.

The 21-year-old Frenchman was replaced by New Zealand's Liam Lawson for races in the Netherlands, Monza and Madrid after injuring his wrist while boxing.

In a statement, Red Bull said Hadjar has made a "full recovery" and will replace Lawson for the Grand Prix in Baku, which runs from September 24-26.

"The team would like to sincerely thank Liam for his professionalism, dedication and hard work over the past three races," Red Bull added.

"Stepping in under challenging circumstances, he delivered some impressive performances and made a valuable contribution to the team."

Lawson, 24, finished seventh



in Zandvoort and sixth in Madrid but failed to score a point at Monza after coming 14th.

After being replaced by Hadjar, Lawson will return to Red Bull's junior team Racing Bulls.

Hadjar, who will return to action alongside four-time world champion Max Verstappen, is eighth in the drivers' standings having scored 71 points this season. - Agencies

FORMULA 1 COMMISSION

Formula 1 approves shorter 290km races from 2027

LONDON: Formula 1 will shorten its standard race distance from 305km to 290km from the 2027 season, with the change expected to reduce most grands prix by two or three laps.

The decision was approved by the Formula 1 Commission during a meeting in London, chaired by F1 CEO Stefano Domenicali and FIA Single-Seater Director Nikolas Tombazis.

The FIA said the shorter races are part of a wider adjustment linked to the sport's new power unit regulations, which come into force in 2027.

"In line with the refinements to the power unit regulations to be introduced in 2027 on fuel flow, a reduction in the total race distance from 305km to 290km was approved, corresponding to a reduction of two or three laps," the FIA said in a statement.

The 2027 power units are set to place greater emphasis on combustion-engine output, with the contribution from the hybrid electrical system reduced compared with the current generation.

The commission has also changed the rules governing race interruptions. The existing three-

hour limit for the overall event will be removed, giving organisers greater scope to complete the scheduled race distance after weather-related delays or red-flag stoppages.

The two-hour limit on actual racing time will remain in place.

Practice sessions will also have greater flexibility under the revised regulations, allowing them to be extended when stoppages disrupt the scheduled running.

The changes are part of a broader overhaul of Formula 1's sporting and technical regulations ahead of the 2027 season. - Agencies



ROUND-UP

MHD Auto and Stellantis celebrate three years of partnership in Oman

A key highlight of the event was the unveiling of the new RAM V8, giving guests their first opportunity to experience the latest expression of RAM's bold design, commanding road presence and performance-led character

MUSCAT: MHD Automobiles and Stellantis celebrated the third anniversary of their partnership in Oman at a special event held at the Stellantis showroom in Al Hail. The occasion brought together media representatives, customers, partners and members of the leadership team to reflect on three years of progress and look ahead to the next phase of growth for Jeep, RAM, Dodge and Alfa Romeo in the Sultanate.

The celebration was attended by Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, Chief Executive Officer of MHD ACERE, and highlighted the partnership's focus on strengthening brand presence, elevating the customer experience and delivering dependable sales and aftersales support across Oman.

New RAM V8 unveiled

A key highlight of the event was the unveiling of the new RAM V8, giving guests their first opportunity to experience the latest expression of



RAM's bold design, commanding road presence and performance-led character. The unveiling underlined the partners' commitment to bringing distinctive products and memorable brand experiences to customers in Oman.

On this occasion Mohsin Al Bahrani said, "The third anniversary with Stellantis is an important milestone for MHD Automobiles and the brands we proudly represent in Oman. Over the past three years, we have worked together to build stronger customer relationships, expand ownership value and create a solid platform for future growth. The unveiling of

the new RAM V8 makes this celebration particularly special and demonstrates our commitment to bringing exciting products and experiences to the Sultanate. As we move forward, we remain focused on service excellence, customer confidence and sustainable long-term growth."

Celebrating 85 years of Jeep

The event also commemorated Jeep's 85th anniversary, recognizing a global legacy that began in 1941 and has since become synonymous with freedom, adventure, authenticity and legendary capability. In Oman, Jeep's charac-

ter continues to resonate strongly with customers across city roads, mountain routes, desert landscapes and coastal journeys.

To mark the occasion, MHD Automobiles is offering selected Jeep models with special anniversary prices and ownership benefits for a limited period.

The line-up includes the Jeep Commander starting from RO 12,995, the Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo from RO 14,995 and the Jeep Wrangler Sahara 2.0L from RO 19,995. Eligible retail customers purchasing a Jeep during the promotional period will also receive an entry into a raffle draw



for a chance to win an iPhone 17. Customers will also be eligible for Free First Insurance & Registration depending upon the models and more. It's a limited time period offer and depending upon the available stock

Three years of progress in Oman

Since commencing the partnership, MHD Automobiles and Stellantis have worked to develop the presence of Jeep, RAM, Dodge and Alfa Romeo through focused sales initiatives, customer engagement and reliable aftersales care. The third-anniversary celebration rec-

ognized the contribution of customers, employees, partners and stakeholders to this journey.

The milestone also reflects MHD Automobiles' commitment to supporting each brand with local market knowledge and an ownership experience built around accessibility, trust and long-term value. With the partnership entering its fourth year, MHD Automobiles and Stellantis will continue to introduce engaging products, strengthen customer touchpoints and create new opportunities for motorists across the Sultanate to experience their portfolio of brands.

SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA



Financing transition: BankDhofar aligns with Oman's net-zero goals

MUSCAT: As BankDhofar sharpens its sustainability agenda, it is emerging as a notable private-sector ally in Oman's journey toward net-zero emissions. Through a mix of green financing, operational decarbonisation and ESG-led governance, the bank is positioning climate action not only as a corporate responsibility but as a business opportunity aligned with national priorities.

A cornerstone of this approach is BankDhofar's alignment with the country's sustainable finance architecture, which is designed to channel capital into renewable energy, clean transport and climate-resilient infrastructure. This architecture has been shaped by policy direction from entities such as the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, which has consistently underscored the need to accelerate investment in renewables and low-carbon projects. The framework supports instruments such as green bonds, sustainability sukuk and dedicated green loans. BankDhofar has signaled its intent to roll out products that translate these policy signals into tangible projects, from solar deployments to climate-adaptation investments.

At the sovereign level, the Ministry of Finance has set an important foundation through its Sovereign Sustainable Finance Framework. This framework enables the issuance of green, social

and sustainability bonds, loans and sukuk to finance projects with clear environmental and social benefits. Aligned with national development priorities and global sustainability standards, it defines eligible categories such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean transportation, sustainable water management and climate-change adaptation. It also emphasises transparency and use-of-proceeds reporting, helping build investor confidence and accountability. For local banks, this creates both a roadmap and a pipeline of credible green projects.

Regulatory momentum is reinforced by the Central Bank of Oman, which requires banks to integrate climate-risk management, develop sustainable products and strengthen ESG reporting. These requirements are steadily embedding climate considerations into mainstream banking, nudging institutions to look beyond traditional lending and toward transition finance.

BankDhofar's sustainability push is not limited to labelled green products. Its cooperation with Development Bank to enhance SME and trade finance also plays a role. While many of these facilities are sector-agnostic, they help build a more resilient private sector capable of adopting cleaner technologies and more efficient processes. For smaller firms, ac-

cess to finance is often the first enabler for investing in rooftop solar, efficient machinery or resource-saving upgrades.

Internally, the bank is also aligning operations with its external message. The transition of its vehicle fleet to hybrid models, alongside energy-efficiency measures such as LED upgrades and closer monitoring of resource use, signals a willingness to decarbonize its own footprint. These steps may be modest relative to national emissions, but they strengthen the credibility of its green narrative.

All of this unfolds against the backdrop of a broader national transformation agenda that places diversification and sustainability side by side. As the economy gradually balances hydrocarbon revenues with a lower-carbon future, financial institutions are becoming key conduits for capital reallocation.

BankDhofar's trajectory suggests that climate finance in the Sultanate is moving from concept to execution. By pairing policy alignment with practical action, the bank is helping build the financial plumbing required for a net-zero economy. If similar momentum spreads across the sector, the cumulative impact could significantly widen the flow of capital into projects that support the country's long-term climate and development goals.

ONE CAUSE. MANY PARTNERS. ONE SHARED PURPOSE

Event brings together businesses and community organisations to encourage blood donation

MUSCAT: Asha Enterprises and Europcar Oman & Bahrain, together with The Diplomatic Club, AmCham Oman, British Business Forum Oman (BBF), INMECC, Crowe Oman and the Oman Hereditary Blood Disorders Association, joined forces for the initiative, which concluded on 10 September at The Diplomatic Club with a strong response from donors and participants.

The initiative was organised to support patients living with hereditary blood disorders who depend on regular blood transfusions as part of their ongoing treatment and care. By encouraging voluntary blood donation, the drive aimed to help strengthen the availability of blood for those who rely on transfusions and raise greater awareness of the importance of regular donation.

As the host venue, The Diplomatic Club provided an important platform for members, partner organisations and the wider community to participate in the initiative.

Charm Majolica, Director, The Diplomatic Club, said: "The Diplomatic Club is proud to bring people and organisations together for a cause that has a direct and lasting impact on our community. Blood donation is a simple act of generosity that can make a meaningful difference to those in need. Through initiatives like this, we want to create meaningful opportunities for our members, partners and wider community to come together, contribute and make a real difference."

The involvement of business and community networks helped extend the reach of the initiative beyond the event itself, encouraging individuals to participate and contribute.

Rebecca Olson, CEO, AmCham Oman, said: "Strong communities are built when businesses and organisations look beyond their in-



dividual roles and come together around a shared purpose. The response to this Blood Donation Drive demonstrates the power of networks — not simply to spread a message, but to motivate people to act. We are very proud to have supported an initiative with such direct human impact."

Maggie Jeans OBE, Founder Director, British Business Forum Oman, said: "Giving blood is one of the simplest ways an individual can make an immediate difference to another person's life. As a business community, we also have a responsibility to encourage that spirit of giving. It was wonderful to see so many organisations use their connections to bring people together for such an important cause."

For patients living with hereditary blood disorders, maintaining a reliable supply of blood can be an important part of their ongoing treatment. Every donation can therefore make a meaningful difference to individuals and families who depend on regular transfusions.

Davis Kallukaran, Founder Director, INMECC, said: "Partnership has real value when it moves beyond business and contributes to the wider community. This initiative brought together different organisations, networks and individuals around one very clear objective — encouraging more peo-

ple to donate blood and support those whose lives depend upon it. INMECC is pleased to have been part of that collective effort."

Salman Asim Al Sabri from Oman Hereditary Blood Disorders Association said: "Blood donation is a simple act of kindness that can save lives and bring hope to patients in need, especially those living with hereditary blood disorders. Let us all support this noble cause and make a real difference in our community."

Reflecting on the initiative, Nitin Sapre, Group CEO of Asha Enterprises, said: "The success of this year's Blood Donation Drive is a reflection of the extraordinary support we have received from our partners and the community. We are deeply grateful to the Oman Hereditary Blood Disorders Association, The Diplomatic Club, AmCham Oman, British Business Forum Oman, INMECC and Crowe Oman for bringing their networks, commitment and energy to this initiative. Above all, we thank every donor who came forward. It is this collective spirit that allows an initiative such as this to grow and create meaningful impact."

Asha Enterprises and Europcar Oman & Bahrain extend their appreciation to all partners, donors, volunteers and team members who contributed to the 2026 Blood Donation Drive.



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