

Times

GOLDEN JUBILEE

OF OMAN

51

YEARS OF
LEGACY

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HM VISITS SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AT DUQM, REVIEWS INVESTMENT, DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

HM commended the integration of national efforts in contributing to the zone's construction and development

DUQM: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, paid a visit to the Special Economic Zone at Duqm yesterday. During the visit, His Majesty reviewed the economic, investment and developmental projects in the zone, the investment expansion it has witnessed in recent years, and the efforts exerted to transform it into an integrated economic zone.

His Majesty the Sultan listened to a briefing on the zone and the Port of Duqm, the achievements realised in the past period, and the future plans to provide an attractive investment environment and attract further local and foreign investments.

His Majesty the Sultan issued his gracious directives to continue work on harnessing the zone's assets and potential, in a manner that contributes to entrenching its standing as a promising economic and logistics hub and maximising the benefit of its strategic location. **>A7**



ENVOY PRAISES HIS MAJESTY



On behalf of His Majesty, Sayyid Asaad bids farewell to ambassador of Thailand

MUSCAT: On behalf of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, His Highness Sayyid Asaad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs and Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, received in his office yesterday Warunee Pan Krajang, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Sultanate of Oman, to bid her farewell at

the end of her tenure. The Ambassador expressed her gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty the Sultan for the support she received during her tenure in the Sultanate of Oman, which had facilitated her to carry out her duties, wishing His Majesty success in leading the Sultanate of Oman and achieving further accomplishments at all levels.

For his part, His Highness Sayyid

Asaad expressed his sincere thanks to the Ambassador for the efforts she exerted in advancing the relations of cooperation and partnership between Oman and Thailand, wishing her permanent success. His Highness Sayyid Asaad also wished Thailand further development and progress at all levels. The meeting was attended by the Secretary-General and the Adviser at His Highness's Office. **—ONA**

UAE VISIT

Delegated by His Majesty, Sayyid Harib conveys condolences to Ruler of Dubai

MUSCAT: Delegated by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, HH Sayyid Harib bin Thuwaini Al Said yesterday conveyed His Majesty's condolences to Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, on the death of his brother, Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

HH Sayyid Harib was accompanied during the conveyance of condolences by Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, Dr. Mohammed bin



Said Al Maamari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs and Sayyid Dr. Ahmed bin Hilal Al

Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Arab Emirates. **—ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Student enrolment in Oman increases

1 The total number of students enrolled in school education stood at approximately 980,000, an increase of 3.4%, compared with the previous academic year, while the total number of teachers reached approximately 88,000, an increase of 5.5% compared with the previous year. The statistics showed that expats accounted for 89.3% of the total population aged 10 years and above. **>A2**

OMAN 60 reem gazelles released by EA



2 As part of an initiative to reintroduce gazelles to their natural habitats, the EA released 60 reem gazelles in Wadi Mareer valley of Rimal Al Sharqiyah wildlife area. **>A6**

SPORTS Oman hold Iraq in Gulf Cup opener

3 Oman's Nasser Al Rawahi scored a second-half equaliser as the Red Warriors fought back from an early goal to share the spoils in a 1-1 draw in the opening Group A match of the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup at the Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal Sports City Stadium in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on Wednesday. Oman fought back after being a goal down at the interval when Nasser Al Rawahi scored the equaliser. **>A8**

OMAN

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Oman's readiness for green financing showcased in UK

LONDON: The Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the Central Bank of Oman (CBO), the Environment Authority, and Oman Centre for Net Zero, conducted an introductory tour in the United Kingdom's capital, London, to showcase the Sultanate of Oman's readiness for green financing and its sustainable finance framework.

The delegation was headed by Mahmoud Abdullah Al Aweini, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Finance, with the participation of several specialists from relevant entities.

During the tour, the latest developments regarding the financial and economic performance of the Sultanate of Oman were reviewed. The discussions also covered governmental efforts in environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG), as well as the strategic plan for net-zero emissions.

Furthermore, the tour introduced the sustainable finance framework and explored investment and financing opportunities for green and sustainable projects across various sectors, supporting the transition toward a low-carbon economy in alignment with



the objectives of "Oman Vision 2040."

The execution of this tour comes within the framework of the Ministry of Finance's efforts, in cooperation with relevant authorities, to expand the investor base and attract foreign investments, thereby supporting economic and environmental development targets.

It is worth noting that the Ministry of Finance launched the sustainable finance framework in January 2024. Serving as the first framework of its kind in the GCC countries, it is compliant with the principles of the International Capital Market Association and has achieved an SQS2 "Very Good" rating from Moody's. The framework covers 14 categories eligible for financing, **ONA**

Total number of students enrolled in Omani schools rises 3.4% to 980,000

MUSCAT: The total population aged 10 years and above holding a bachelor's degree or higher in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 6 percent in 2025 compared with 2024, while the illiteracy rate among the same age group declined from 2.29% in 2024 to 2.25% in 2025, according to the latest data published in the Education Statistics Bulletin 2026, issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The statistics showed that expatriates accounted for 89.3% of the total population aged 10 years and above classified under the "able to read and write" educational level in 2025.

The total number of students enrolled in school education stood at approximately 980,000, an increase of 3.4%, compared with the previous academic year, while the total number of teachers reached approximately 88,000, an increase of 5.5 percent compared with the previous year. In terms of expenditure, government expenditure on the education sector accounted for 16.3% of total government expenditure in 2025, while the contribution of the education sector to GDP at current prices stood at 4.8% during the same year.

In the area of early childhood development, the number of nurs-



eries declined by 1.5% in 2025 compared with the previous year, reaching 329 nurseries, while the total number of children enrolled stood at 9,548, including 8,044 Omani children and 1,504 expatriate children.

The average number of children per nursery stood at 29, compared with 30 children per nursery in the previous year.

The Omanisation rate among nursery staff also increased to 77.5% in 2025, compared with 75.2% in the previous year. The number of Omani female employ-

ees reached 1,632, compared with 475 expatriate employees.

In the early education sector during the 2025/2026 academic year, the total number of schools providing early education services increased by 7% compared with the previous academic year, reaching 2,252 schools.

Some 53 percent of these schools were concentrated in the Governorates of Muscat, North Al Batinah and Al Dakhiliyah.

The gross enrolment rate in kindergartens stood at 75% during the 2024/2025 academic

year. The classroom density in pre-primary education schools stood at 16 students per class during the 2025/2026 academic year, while 58.3% of the total number of kindergarten students was concentrated in the Governorates of Muscat, North Al Batinah and Al Dakhiliyah.

Students enrolled in private kindergartens accounted for 85.5 percent, while Omani children represented 88% of total kindergarten enrolment during the same academic year.

In the school education sector, the total number of schools providing school education services during the 2025/2026 academic year reached 1,816, with government schools accounting for 72%.

The average number of students per teacher stood at 12, while classroom density reached 27 students per class, compared with 28 students in the previous year.

In the field of literacy and adult education, the total number of learners enrolled in literacy programs reached 2,032 during the 2025/2026 academic year, a decline of 13.2%, compared with the previous academic year, with females accounting for 99.5% of the total. — **ONA**

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MARK & SAVE
توفيرتكم، هاترماركتكم
Your Savings, Your Hypermarket

عجائب التسوق الكبير

Per Bag

WOW!

بطاطس باكستانية
كجم. تقريباً
Potato Pakistan
5kg Approx

1.890

0.990

Per Box

KILLER PRICE

صندوق طماطم صغير
Tomato Small Box

1.890

1.490

Per Kg

WOW!

كافور برشقية (صفى كامل)
Orange navel cambria

0.890

0.690

Per Bag

WOW!

سكر الفانج الناعم
كجم. 2 x 1
Al Falah Fine Sugar
6x2Kg

3.890

2.890

Per Bag

WOW!

الحليب الحبي كامل
الدسم، معقم
بالحرارة العالية
Nada UHT
Milk Full
Fat 4x1Ltr

2.070

1.450

Per Box

WOW!

مكعبات البسبوسة
Signal Ttpaste Cavity
Fighter 4X75ml

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مكعبات البسبوسة
Signal Ttpaste Cavity
Fighter 4X75ml

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مكعبات البسبوسة
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

for the period ended 30th June 2026



Ali Al Lawati

OQBI Board Chairman

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the audited financial results of OQ Base Industries (SFZ) S.A.O.G. ("OQBI") and its subsidiary for the six months period ended 30th of June 2026.

Against a backdrop of shifting geopolitical developments and ongoing uncertainty across global markets, the Board remains steadfast in its commitment to prudent governance, robust risk oversight, and sustainable value creation. Our strategic focus continues to be on strengthening the OQBI's resilience, preserving operational excellence, and ensuring OQBI is well positioned to capitalize on emerging opportunities in an evolving market environment.

Notwithstanding supply chain and logistical challenges, as well as the scheduled maintenance shutdown of the LPG plant in January, OQBI delivered an exceptional performance during the first half of the year. OQBI reported a net profit of OMR 43.5 million, representing an 86% increase over the corresponding prior period. This strong result reflects the effectiveness of management's strategic execution, operational discipline, and the underlying strength and adaptability of OQBI's business model.

Investor confidence in OQBI's strategic direction and long-term growth prospects continued to strengthen during the period. As of 30 June 2026, the Company's share price closed at OMR 0.248, reflecting a substantial increase from its initial offering price and demonstrating sustained market support for the Company's vision.

This positive share price performance underscores the market's confidence in OQBI's robust governance practices, strong financial stewardship, and ability to deliver sustainable value to shareholders. It also reflects growing recognition of OQBI's operational resilience, disciplined execution, and commitment to long-term growth.

Health, Safety, Security, and Environmental (HSSE) excellence remains a fundamental priority for the Board. The Company continues to strengthen its HSSE framework through robust governance, proactive risk management, and a culture of accountability, ensuring the highest standards of operational integrity and the well-being of its people, assets, communities, and the environment across all areas of operation.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Board, I extend my appreciation to the management team and all OQBI employees for their continued dedication and professionalism. I also express our sincere gratitude to the wise leadership of the Sultanate of Oman for fostering a stable and supportive environment for sustainable economic development. We further thank the Oman Investment Authority, relevant government entities, Integrated Gas Company, Muscat Stock Exchange, Financial Services Authority, Muscat Clearing and Depositwory, our shareholders, financiers, customers, and suppliers for their continued trust and support. The Board remains confident in OQBI's strategic direction and its ability to deliver sustainable value for shareholders while contributing to Oman's industrial and economic objectives.

CONSOLIDATED AND SEPERATE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2026

	Consolidated		Parent Company	
	30 June 2026	31 December 2025	30 June 2026	31 December 2025
	<u>OMR</u>	<u>OMR</u>	<u>OMR</u>	<u>OMR</u>
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	550,647,611	558,095,537	279,329,877	286,430,449
Intangible assets	250,076	274,827	250,076	274,827
Right-of-use assets	7,772,998	7,943,447	4,619,916	4,727,513
Investment in a subsidiary	-	-	500,000	500,000
Long-term advance	1,179,132	1,203,612	-	-
	<u>559,849,817</u>	<u>567,517,423</u>	<u>284,699,869</u>	<u>291,932,789</u>
Current assets				
Inventories	17,170,986	15,693,537	11,410,960	10,493,467
Trade, other receivables and prepayments	2,853,963	2,767,701	2,069,893	1,561,035
Due from related parties	46,553,402	22,679,959	44,244,807	19,673,987
Derivatives	48,960	48,960	-	-
Term deposits	99,970,000	119,249,961	99,970,000	88,465,000
Cash and cash equivalents	65,841,740	46,566,653	21,792,110	27,063,230
	<u>232,439,051</u>	<u>207,006,771</u>	<u>179,487,770</u>	<u>147,256,719</u>
	<u>792,288,868</u>	<u>774,524,194</u>	<u>464,187,639</u>	<u>439,189,508</u>
Total assets				
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	138,379,634	138,379,634	138,379,634	138,379,634
Legal reserve	25,577,619	20,883,773	25,410,953	20,717,107
Treasury shares	(133,423)	-	(133,423)	-
Reserve on trading of treasury shares	(774,484)	-	(774,484)	-
Retained earnings	187,707,322	165,952,197	120,024,384	94,802,852
Total equity	<u>350,756,668</u>	<u>325,215,604</u>	<u>282,907,064</u>	<u>253,899,593</u>
Non-current liabilities				
Term loans	266,283,292	282,109,074	147,715,655	151,035,852
Lease liabilities	12,946,832	13,561,655	7,670,885	8,079,007
Accrued liability for rich gas	82,553,157	74,247,849	-	-
Employees' end of service benefits	1,679,704	1,668,638	1,598,321	1,593,122
	<u>363,462,985</u>	<u>371,587,216</u>	<u>156,984,861</u>	<u>160,707,981</u>
Current liabilities				
Term loans	31,489,185	30,424,370	6,767,200	6,767,200
Lease liabilities	188,325	168,191	148,521	137,112
Accrued liability for rich gas	25,245,598	24,937,155	-	-
Trade and other payables	10,925,577	16,522,857	7,153,893	11,994,513
Due to related parties	10,220,530	5,668,801	10,226,100	5,683,109
	<u>78,069,215</u>	<u>77,721,374</u>	<u>24,295,714</u>	<u>24,581,934</u>
	<u>441,532,200</u>	<u>449,308,590</u>	<u>181,280,575</u>	<u>185,289,915</u>
Total liabilities	<u>792,288,868</u>	<u>774,524,194</u>	<u>464,187,639</u>	<u>439,189,508</u>
Total equity and liabilities				

CONSOLIDATED AND SEPERATE STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the six months period ended 30 June 2026

	Consolidated		Parent Company	
	30 June 2026	30 June 2025	30 June 2026	30 June 2025
	<u>OMR</u>	<u>OMR</u>	<u>OMR</u>	<u>OMR</u>
Revenue	163,345,309	112,371,082	121,964,769	75,057,443
Cost of sales	(103,523,198)	(78,764,280)	(74,169,177)	(50,850,176)
Gross profit	<u>59,822,111</u>	<u>33,606,802</u>	<u>47,795,592</u>	<u>24,207,267</u>
Administrative and general expenses	(4,858,680)	(5,361,312)	(3,877,718)	(4,094,069)
Operating profit	<u>54,963,431</u>	<u>28,245,490</u>	<u>43,917,874</u>	<u>20,113,198</u>
Other income	40,813	642,322	4,841,279	6,899,626
Finance income	3,490,214	4,892,216	2,475,602	2,025,222
Finance costs	(15,021,541)	(10,363,782)	(4,296,302)	(5,197,057)
Profit for the period	<u>43,472,917</u>	<u>23,416,246</u>	<u>46,938,453</u>	<u>23,840,989</u>
Other comprehensive income:				
Items not to be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:				
Remeasurement of gain / (loss) on defined benefit plan	31,344	(42,731)	32,215	(42,745)
Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the period	<u>31,344</u>	<u>(42,731)</u>	<u>32,215</u>	<u>(42,745)</u>
Total comprehensive income for the period	<u>43,504,261</u>	<u>23,373,515</u>	<u>46,970,668</u>	<u>23,798,244</u>
Basic earnings per share	<u>0.013</u>	<u>0.007</u>	<u>0.014</u>	<u>0.007</u>

Duqm Day... a historic day marked by the auspicious visit of His Majesty the Sultan



Today, Duqm is an established economic city operating at scale. On SEZAD, ships are repaired, fuel is refined, and goods reach customers in Oman and overseas, while new investment keeps adding industries. His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq's visit underlines Duqm's growing importance to Oman's economic future. In these seven interviews, SEZAD's leaders discuss how to attract investment, expand exports and create careers for the next generation, revealing a zone with the ambition to keep growing and contribute to the nation's progress.



HE. Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef
Chairman, Public Authority for
Special Economic Zones & Free
Zones

HE. Qais Al Yousef: His Majesty is visiting an economic city that functions as an energy centre, a deep-water logistics hub, a substantial ship-repair base and a growing location for manufacturing, fisheries, tourism and urban development.

What will His Majesty see in Duqm that he would not have seen a few years ago?

For me, the clearest sign of Duqm's progress is the range of activity now taking place at the same time. His Majesty is visiting an economic city that functions as an energy centre, a deep-water logistics hub, a substantial ship-repair base and a growing location for manufacturing, fisheries, tourism and urban development. The refinery, Ras Markaz crude storage terminal, Port of Duqm, drydock, airport and utility network are established and working. So are businesses such as SIMAK's fish-processing complex and Karwa Motors. These projects give investors a strong base from which to manufacture, store, service and export. A further wave of industry is now taking shape with projects in green ammonia and steel, battery materials, wind-turbine components, chemicals and power generation. Some already have international customers. Indeed, His

Majesty's visit comes at a defining point in Duqm's development. It captures both how far the city has come and where it is heading. Duqm is turning Oman's strategic location, resources and infrastructure into finished products, international trade, skilled careers and lasting economic value.

What gives you confidence the latest investments have staying power?

What gives me confidence is that several projects already know who their customers will be. ACME's first phase has a binding agreement to supply Yara with 100,000 tonnes of renewable ammonia a year. Volkswagen has agreed to take up to 300,000 tonnes of lower-emission steel annually from Jindal Steel Duqm. These projects are being developed with a clear understanding of who will buy their products and where those products will go. Before a project begins, we look at its entire journey. **What will it produce? Who will buy it? How will it**

reach the customer? Can it compete on quality and price? Convincing answers to those questions give an investment a much stronger chance of becoming a lasting business.

How much of Duqm's appeal comes down to geography?

Duqm gives Oman an industrial and export base on the Arabian Sea, outside the Strait of Hormuz. Companies can reach major markets in Asia, Africa and other parts of the world directly from the port. Recent disruption to regional shipping routes has reinforced the value of having more than one route to market. Businesses want reliable access to customers, supplies and transport, particularly when trading conditions become difficult.

Duqm adds a deep-water port, storage facilities, utilities, ship repair and industrial land to that geographic advantage. For an investor, many of the services needed to build, operate and export are available in one location. That is a compelling proposition.

What kind of destination is Duqm becoming?

Duqm is becoming a city where industry, trade and everyday life develop together. It can support manufacturing, heavy industry and food production, while its logistics facilities connect businesses with customers in Oman and international markets. Tourism is adding another dimension to that development. The major projects being built on SEZAD today will add further depth. An investor can establish a business in Duqm, serve the domestic market, export overseas and expand from the same base.



HE. Munir bin Ali Al Muniri
Vice President for Operations,
Oman Investment Authority

Why is Duqm an important example of Oman's economic transformation?

What stands out to me about Duqm is the way one investment strengthens another. A manufacturer can bring materials through the port, draw on energy and services on SEZAD and export from the same location. That makes it easier to operate and gives each project more room to grow. This is what economic transformation looks like on the ground. Duqm is building new sources of income, production and trade while giving Omani and international investors the confidence to commit for the long-term.

How is Oman Investment Authority supporting that growth?



H. Dr. Salem bin Salim Al
Junaibi
Chairman, Al Wusta branch
of the Oman Chamber of
Commerce & Industry

How has SEZAD changed business activity in Al Wusta?

As SEZAD has grown, it has generated new business throughout Al Wusta. Major projects in Duqm need contractors, suppliers and service providers, giving local companies, SMEs and entrepreneurs more ways to take part in the zone's development. The benefits can be seen in transport, contracting, construction, maintenance and logistics. IT, communications and tourism are also growing as the number and scale of projects increase.

How do smaller companies benefit from major investments?

Every major project creates business for many others. It needs transport, maintenance, construction, technology, accommodation and specialist services. This opens the door for



Eng. Ahmed bin Ali Akaak
CEO Special Economic Zone at
Duqm

How is Duqm bringing Oman Vision 2040 to life?

Oman Vision 2040 sets our direction. The 11th Five-Year Plan takes that forward for 2026 - 30 through diversification, stronger exports, low-carbon growth and balanced development. What we're doing at SEZAD is translating these priorities into investment and opportunity by making it easier to do business, attracting tourists and strategic partners and improving quality of life.

Let me give you a few examples of what's going on in Duqm to show how we're doing this. As well as the busy Port of Duqm, among the Middle East's largest, we have the US\$9bn Duqm refinery with capacity to process 255,000 barrels



Eng. Nasser bin Khalifa
Al Kindi
CEO, Invest Oman

Why does Invest Oman give Duqm particular attention?

The simple answer is that Duqm gives investors room to think long-term. A major industrial project can establish itself here, connect to the port and essential services and expand without having to look elsewhere for space. As these projects grow, suppliers and service companies grow around them. That is what makes Duqm particularly interesting - investors are becoming part of a business community that is gaining strength with every new project.

How do you promote the opportunities available in SEZAD?



Eng. Abdulrahman bin
Humaid Al Yahyai
CEO, Integrated Gas Company

SEZAD is entering a new stage of industrial growth. What does that mean for gas demand?

More industrial projects naturally mean greater demand for gas. As SEZAD strengthens its infrastructure and brings in new investment, gas becomes an important part of sustaining that momentum. Our responsibility is to secure reliable supplies in line with national priorities. That gives existing businesses confidence to operate and new industries the certainty they need to invest, helping Duqm develop into a deeper and more connected industrial centre.

Which projects are already receiving gas?

We have allocated gas to several projects that are central to Duqm's development. These include the Duqm Refinery and the power-generation plant, along with new industries producing green iron, cement and solar panels. That mix is important. Gas is

Oman Investment Authority supports Duqm through its portfolio companies, many of which are behind the major assets and productive businesses operating there. Our contribution is not confined to financing individual projects. We consider how each investment can strengthen the wider economy around it. The refinery can supply industrial businesses, the port gives producers access to overseas markets and reliable utilities help new industrial projects operate. Each asset makes the others more useful and gives private investors a stronger base on which to build.

smaller companies to join supply chains, strengthen their capabilities and prove themselves with major clients. The real opportunity comes as more projects begin operating. One contract can lead to a long-term business relationship, giving local companies steady work, valuable experience and a stronger platform for growth.

What role does the Chamber play?

We work closely with SEZAD's management to turn investment into business opportunities. That means connecting Omani companies with major projects, showing them where demand is growing and helping them understand how to enter supply chains. We also champion Duqm at private-sector events in Oman and through the Chamber's international network. Our role is to help attract new business to Duqm while

a day. Then there's Ras Markaz, with 267 million barrels of crude storage and ASYAD Dry Dock which has already completed over 1,800 projects. Duqm Airport can handle 500,000 passengers a year and a first-class road network connects these assets to points across Oman and beyond. These are truly exceptional assets and we are using them to deepen the connections between industry, energy and logistics from petrochemicals and green steel to hydrogen, renewable-energy equipment, electric mobility, fisheries processing and cold-chain exports. This breadth is reflected in substantial investment which reached almost RO6.4 billion by the end of 2025 and the 10 further agreements and

SEZAD promotes the zone directly and we extend that work through our relationships with investors in Oman and overseas. We work company by company, looking at what each business wants to do and whether Duqm is the right place for it. When there is a good fit, we introduce the investor to SEZAD's management and stay involved while the project is explored. There is already strong international interest in Oman. The latest NCSI figures put foreign direct investment at RO32.2bn, an increase of 8.7% in a year. Our role is to turn some of that interest into serious conversations about Duqm and, ultimately, businesses operating on SEZAD.

supporting energy and heavy industry, but it is also enabling new forms of manufacturing. It gives a clear sense of the scale and diversity now taking shape in Duqm.

Is the company's role limited to supplying gas?

We are both a supplier and a steward of an important national resource. Our responsibility is to direct gas towards projects that can generate strong economic returns for Oman. That means looking at what each allocation can deliver - new industries, local supply chains, skilled jobs and a broader economic base. Gas has value in itself but its greater value lies in what businesses can produce with it.

How are you preparing for Duqm's future needs?

Planning begins long before a project opens its doors. We work with the relevant organizations to understand which projects are coming, how much gas they will require and when that



ensuring Omani companies have a meaningful part in its growth. When local companies win contracts, build expertise and create jobs, the benefits of investment travel far beyond SEZAD.



memoranda worth RO2.9 billion which, I'm delighted to say, were signed in June 2026. Looking at practical matters, we're ensuring that land, utilities and connectivity support long-term industrial growth. And we're giving investors a more coordinated route from their initial enquiry through to operation and expansion.

How is Duqm making it easier for businesses to invest, operate and expand?

Competitiveness these days isn't just land and incentives. It's about the time, cost and certainty involved in moving from an investment decision to commercial operation, the confidence in what comes next.

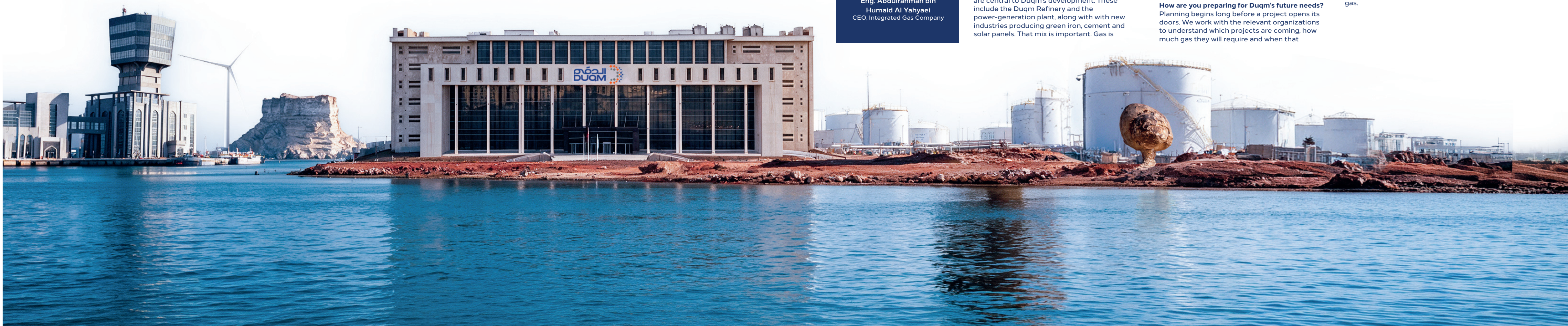
What makes Duqm attractive to an international investor?

Location is one of Duqm's strongest advantages. It sits on the Arabian Sea with direct access to the Indian Ocean and the shipping routes that connect major international markets. But location alone is not enough. Duqm combines that position with modern infrastructure, extensive industrial capacity and the ability to support specialized projects. Investors can bring in materials, manufacture products and reach overseas customers from the same location. That is a compelling proposition for any international business.

demand is likely to begin. That preparation gives investors greater certainty and allows Duqm to grow with confidence. It also helps SEZAD compete for industries that create more value and have the potential to expand over time.

What is your main priority at the moment?

For me, what we need to do is put the right amount of gas into the projects that offer Oman the strongest return. Demand is rising, so every allocation needs to support both industrial growth and the efficient use of national resources. Getting that balance right will help Oman broaden its economy, strengthen its industrial base and create lasting value from its gas.



SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AT DUQM



Committed cumulative investment in Duqm jumps 141% to over OMR8.8bn

DUQM: The volume of committed cumulative investment in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) rose to OMR8.818 billion by the end of last June, registering a 141 percent growth compared to its 2021 level of OMR3.650 billion.

Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz), explained that this rise reflects the improvement in the investment environment within the Special Economic Zone at Duqm over the past five years. It also highlights the development of the zone's infrastructure, the efforts exerted to attract investments, and the incentives and facilities offered by the zone to investors.

In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), he stated that the Port of Duqm recorded growth in the handling volume of containers, roll-on/roll-off cargo, oil and gas

field pipelines, and various goods required by the projects being implemented in the zone.

In this regard, Al Yousef pointed out a 5.66 percent increase in total cargo handling at the Port of Duqm. Furthermore, dry bulk cargo handling increased by 3.88 percent, and roll-on/roll-off cargo handling rose by 8.2 percent between 2021 and 2025.

He added that the Duqm Refinery successfully increased its production capacity to 255,000 barrels per day, and the Dry Dock completed approximately 1,340 projects from 2020 until the end of last year.

The Chairman of Opaz affirmed that the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones is working to localise several other projects in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, aligning with the Sultanate of Oman's plans for net-zero carbon emissions and

the ongoing efforts to develop the green hydrogen sector.

Al Yousef noted that the Special Economic Zone at Duqm is also working to attract various other projects in the tourism, commercial, and logistics sectors. Additionally, the zone is preparing the necessary means to ensure the stability of its workforce by attracting educational and healthcare projects.

He explained that the Duqm University College, which is launching its first academic year this year, represents a qualitative addition to the education sector in the zone.

He stated that the zone has also focused on expanding health and medical services in cooperation with the private sector. In this context, the emergency building at Duqm Hospital will be inaugurated in partnership with OQ Group, and a kidney dialysis unit

will be established at the hospital. Furthermore, a cardiac unit will be established at the Badr Al Samaa Medical Centre in Duqm, alongside an increase in the number of medical specialties offered at the centre.

In the field of social services, He explained that the Educational Community Cultural Center in Duqm, which was built using 3D printing, has been completed, reflecting Duqm's role in supporting sustainable development, innovation, and social development.

Al Yousef affirmed that the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones will continue its work in enhancing the investment environment in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, localising more qualitative projects, and raising the efficiency of services in line with the expected growth in the volume of investments and economic projects.



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ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY

60 reem gazelles released in Wadi Mareer valley



AL MUDHAIBI: As part of an initiative marking the start of the second phase of a project to reintroduce gazelles to their natural habitats, the Environment Authority recently released 60 reem gazelles in Wadi Mareer valley of Rimal Al Sharqiyah wildlife area.

The initiative is undertaken in cooperation with the Directorate General of Nature Conservation and the Environment Department in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate.

A ceremony to this effect was held in the Wilayat of Al Mudhaibi under the auspices of Mahmoud bin Yahya Al Dhuhli, Governor of North Al Sharqiyah, in the presence of Dr Abdullah bin Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority.

Wadi Mareer extends between the governorates of North Al Sharqiyah and Al Wusta. It was selected for the gazelle release project due to its open desert expanses and vegetation cover that includes Al Ghaf trees, which provide essential habitats and natural resources for a variety of wildlife species.

Assisted by the local communities, the authorities concerned maintain constant monitoring of the site to ensure the protection of the gazelles as they live in their natural environment.

Al Reem-2 project constitutes a significant step forward in the Sultanate of Oman's efforts to conserve biodiversity and restore wildlife species to their natural habitats. — ONA



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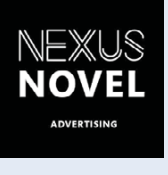


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HM visits Special Economic Zone at Duqm

< FROM A1 Upon His Majesty's arrival at the Port of Duqm, he was received by Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, a number of officials at the port and the companies operating in the zone.

At the conclusion of the visit, His Majesty inscribed a message on the occasion, in which he expressed his profound delight at visiting the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and at the achievements he reviewed, which inspire pride.

His Majesty commended the integration of national efforts contributing to the zone's construction and development. He affirmed that this promising zone, open to the seas of the world, constitutes an authentic tributary to the national economy, opens vast horizons for the future, and represents one of the pillars of Oman Vision 2040.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan during the visit were HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs; Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court; Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior; Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance; Nasr bin Hamoud Al Kindi, Secretary-General of the Royal Court Affairs; Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office; Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, President of Oman Investment Authority; Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology; Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals; Hussein bin Ali bin Abdullatif, Adviser at the Private Office, Sayyid Dr. Sultan bin Yarub Al Busaidi, Adviser at the Private Office and Anwar bin Hilal Al Jabari, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion. -ONA



SPORTS

Al Rawahi helps Oman share the spoils with Iraq in opener

The Red Warriors fought back with a second half equaliser after Iraq took an early lead as the Arabian Gulf Cup kicked off in Jeddah

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman fought back from an early setback to earn a 1-1 draw against Iraq in their opening Group A match of the 27th Gulf Cup at the Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal Sports City Stadium on Wednesday.

Mohammed Qasim struck after just six minutes to give Iraq the lead, but Nasser Al Rawahi restored parity for the Red Warriors in the second half as both sides settled for a point in an absorbing opening contest.

Qasim's early strike was the first goal of Gulf Cup 27. The Iraq midfielder collected the ball inside the penalty area before shifting onto his left foot and firing home.

Oman, however, refused to allow the early setback to dictate the contest. Tarik Sektioui's side gradually found a foothold and remained in contention as the match progressed.

Oman fought back after being a goal down at the interval as Al Rawahi got the much-needed equaliser in the 67th minute, bursting down the left flank before drilling into the back of the Iraqi net.

The goal gave Oman renewed momentum and ensured the Red Warriors picked up with a valuable point from their opening fixture.

The draw leaves both sides with one point in Group A, alongside Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, who are also competing for the two semi-final places available from the group.

The tournament format sends the top two teams from each group through to the last four.

Oman now face tournament



hosts Saudi Arabia on Saturday, September 26, at King Abdullah Sports City, before completing their group campaign against Kuwait on September 29.

Iraq, meanwhile, meet Kuwait on Saturday before facing Saudi

Arabia in their final group match.

For Oman, the point provides a solid start to Sektioui's first official assignment as national team head coach, with the Red Warriors seeking a third Gulf Cup title after previous triumphs in 2009 and 2017.



ARAB SAILING CHAMPIONSHIP



Oman sailors shine in Jeddah with silver and bronze haul

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's young sailing stars returned from Jeddah in Saudi Arabia with a silver medal, a bronze and a sportsmanship honour after an impressive showing at the 2026 Arab Sailing Championship – Optimist.

The Oman Sail Optimist team finished second in the Team Race, while Mohammed Al Balushi added an individual bronze in the highly competitive U12 Optimist fleet.

Held from September 17-21 at the Jeddah Sailing Centre on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast, the championship brought together young sailors from 11 nations, providing a demanding regional test for Oman's five-member squad.

Al Balushi's third-place finish was the standout individual result for Oman, while the team also produced two top-10 finishes in the U15 category. Khalid Al Suraihi finished eighth, with Mohammed Al Qasmi 10th. The campaign was further strengthened by Elyas



Al Khodhori, who received the championship's Best Sportsmanship Award in recognition of his fair play, respect for fellow competitors, teamwork and willingness to assist others.

The results capped a strong week for the Oman Sail youngsters, who competed against some of the region's best youth sailors.

"I am extremely proud of the

determination and skill our young sailors demonstrated in Jeddah," said Sultan Al Zadjali, Assistant Head Coach – Youth. "Securing second place in the Team Race and earning a podium finish and top-10 positions in the individual categories against the finest youth sailors in the region is a testament to their hard work and preparation."

For Al Balushi, standing on the

podium represented a particularly memorable moment. "Representing Oman and standing on the podium at the Arab Sailing Championship is an unforgettable feeling," said the U12 bronze medalist. "The racing was intense, but our training paid off. I want to thank our coaches and teammates for all their support, and I'm excited to build on this success."

Oman's delegation comprised Khalid Al Suraihi, Mohammed Al Balushi, Mohammed Al Qasmi, Al Khalil Al Fori and Elyas Al Khodhori.

The event, organised by the Saudi Sailing Federation under the Arab Sailing Federation, also provided valuable technical experience, with Oman Sail official Nawaf Al Ghadani serving as a Race Officer for the Optimist Team Racing competition.

The young sailors will turn their attention to the 15th edition of Mussanah Race Week, scheduled for October 15-22, where they will face another strong international field.

AICHI-NAGOYA ASIAN GAMES

Oman beach volleyball B team bows out after second defeat in a row

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's beach volleyball B team bowed out of the 20th Asian Games on Wednesday after suffering a second consecutive defeat, while the Sultanate's A team will begin its campaign as the competition moves into another busy phase in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Ahmed Al Hosni and Khalfan Al Maamari lost 2-0 to Iran's Abbas Pour Asghari and Ali Reza Agha at the Hekinan Ryokuchi Beach Volleyball venue. Iran controlled both sets, winning 21-12, 21-12 to secure its second victory in the group.

Oman had earlier lost 2-0 to Thailand, leaving the pair out of contention for the next round. Their final group match is against Timor-Leste.

The focus now shifts to Oman's A team of Nouh Al Jalboobi and Mazen Al Hashmi, who launch their campaign against the Philippines on Thursday.

The duo completed their final training session on Wednesday and will be looking to make a winning start.

"We are fully prepared for our opening game. We understand its importance and will enter the match with everything we have to achieve the objective we set before the competition," Al Jalboobi said.

Fencing, shooting setbacks

Oman's fencing team also endured a difficult day as Israa Al Siyabia exited the women's individual foil competition after five defeats in the group stage.

Al Siyabia lost to Japan's Komaki Kikuchi 5-1, India's Ashitha Stalinraj 5-1, Macau's Hiu Lam 5-3, China's Qian Qin Huang 5-0 and



Singapore's Amita Mari 5-2. Oman are making their Asian Games debut in fencing, with Ali Al Harith Al Harthy and Saeed Al Shaebe set to compete in the men's épée.

In shooting, Naghmous Al Hat-tali missed qualification for the skeet final.

Oman will have athletes in action across several disciplines on Thursday.

Mazoon Al Alawi will compete in the women's 100m heats at Mizuho Stadium, with Ali Al Balushi and Mulham Al Balushi taking part in the men's 100m heats.

Mubeen Al Kindi will also compete in the hammer throw.

Also, Oman's hockey team takes on Uzbekistan in Gifu. The hockey side will seek to bounce back after defeats against China and Malaysia.

OMAN OIL PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman crude oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by November 2026 reaching \$110.19. The price of Oman crude oil fell by 0.03 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was \$110.22. — **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 7,556.89 points, down by 0.05% from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.07% at 622.10 points. National Gas, up 9.74%, was the top gainer while Al Hassan Engineering, down 16.67%, was the top loser.

Regulatory rules of Securities Law reviewed to boost capital market

The new regulations serve as a foundational pillar for attracting local and foreign investment by introducing innovative financial products and empowering investment banking institution

MUSCAT: The key features of the executive regulations for the Securities Law was presented by Financial Services Authority (FSA) on Wednesday.

These regulations focus on facilitating the economic utilisation of national wealth and assets, and providing protection and an enabling investment environment for investors.

“The regulatory clauses contained in the executive regulations of the Securities Law serve to explain the regulatory rules included in the law issued by Royal Decree No. (46/2022),” said Abdullah Salim Al Salmi, CEO of FSA.

He noted that they aim to build a more efficient and competitive market that contributes to achieving the



targets of Oman Vision 2040.

Al Salmi highlighted that the new regulations serve as a foundational pillar for attracting local and foreign investment by introducing innovative financial products and empowering investment banking institutions. Notably, the executive framework expands the scope of collective investment funds to encompass eleven distinct categories, positioning them as primary vehicles for asset growth and project financing across the Sultanate of Oman.

He explained that the Securities Law focused on establishing the legal umbrella that contributes to facilitating the optimal utilisation of national wealth and assets. Besides, providing protection and a suitable investment environment for market participants by enabling capital market institutions and entities operating in the field of securities to fulfill their role in serving, supporting, and developing the national economy.

This is achieved through creat-

ing appropriate financing means and alternatives to utilise savings and direct them toward funding existing productive and service projects or new ventures within the national economic ecosystem, thereby contributing to generating job opportunities for Omani youth.

The CEO of the FSA stated that the executive regulations of the law represent the cornerstone for the upcoming phase of capital market development in the Sultanate of Oman.

“They combine investor protection, diversification of financial products, encouragement of innovation, and enhancement of the market’s role in financing projects.”

He noted that great attention was accorded to providing alternative and innovative financing options characterised by sufficient flexibility to accommodate the needs of the economic growth movement witnessed by the Sultanate of Oman amidst rapid changes driven by financial technology and regional and interna-

tional market developments.

“This contributes to attracting local and foreign capital through the capital market sector to support economic activities and enhance investor confidence by consolidating the principles of fairness, integrity, and transparency,” he further added.

He pointed out that the regulations strengthened the rules governing the segregation of client investments and funds from the funds and assets of entities operating in the securities field, protecting them from the effects of bankruptcy and liquidation, and requiring regulatory reports that enable the Authority to verify the proper segregation of traders’ funds and assets, as updates in this regard enable the Authority to continuously verify the integrity of the segregation of market participants’ funds and assets.

Al Salmi affirmed that the development of the capital market cannot be achieved without active institutions practicing investment

banking activities, capable of fulfilling their role in supporting market growth, enhancing its efficiency, and providing appropriate financing solutions and alternatives.

He noted that this regulatory step is important as it contributes to enhancing the institutional and operational separation between banking activity and investment activities associated with securities, limiting conflicts of interest and risk transmission, and more clearly defining the scope of regulatory and supervisory jurisdiction of the FSA.

He explained that the regulations allowed licensed entities to practice investment banking activities and provide a number of activities related to securities, represented in investment manager activity, product structuring activity, securities portfolio management activity, research and advice activity related to investing in listed securities, and issuance management activity. He added that the legislator also permitted investment banks to perform the duties of underwriters for issuances approved by the Authority.

Al Salmi pointed out that the regulations expanded the types of collective investment funds by regulating eleven types of funds, in addition to allowing the Board of Directors of the Financial Services Authority to license other types of funds.

Regarding risk-based supervision, Al Salmi affirmed that it includes provisions that enhance the principle of forward-looking risk-based supervision, represented in capital adequacy reports and risk management plans of licensed entities, including business continuity plans and other regulatory requirements.

The regulations defined the regulatory objectives and operational risks of institutions that should be addressed and the entities subject to its provisions, allowing them to take the necessary measures to achieve these objectives and avoid risks that might affect safe and profitable operation and the protection of related parties.

In pursuit of encouraging innovation in financial technology for non-banking sectors, the CEO of the FSA indicated that through regulating the regulatory sandbox environment, the regulations added a fast track for such technologies, complementing what the Authority’s system issued under Royal Decree No. (20/2024) provided in terms of temporary licenses. The regulations were keen to provide the appropriate legal environment to stimulate the market, permitting the Authority to grant licenses to practice services and activities associated with modern financial technologies and innovative financial instruments for which no regulating legislation exists.

He emphasised that this step would support the National Programme for Digital Economy and the National Strategy for Financial Technology, thereby contributing to attracting investments, particularly in financial technology related to the securities field, keeping pace with technical developments in the sector while maintaining market integrity and stability, and enhancing trader protection.

The press conference also focused on the most prominent changes contained in the new regulations, which represent about 37 percent of its total provisions between introduction or amendment. — **ONA**

7TH OMAN LOCAL CONTENT FORUM

Local content forum focuses on national products and growth



MUSCAT: The 7th Oman Local Content Forum reviewed on Wednesday local content initiatives, support for national products, and national efforts to drive economic growth.

The event is themed “Beyond Impact: Local Content Driving Growth and Empowering Future Competencies,” with the participation of a number of officials, decision-makers, experts, and specialists.

The opening of the forum was held under the auspices of Sayyid Namir bin Salim Al Said.

Hatim Hamad Al Taiee, Secretary General and Chairman of the Main Committee of the Forum, explained in his speech that the seventh edition of Oman Local Content Forum discussed local content ideas and initiatives and support for national products within the framework of relentless efforts to support economic growth.

He added that local content represents an essential part of efforts to enhance economic diversification aimed at reducing dependence on oil as a primary source of general state revenues, through supporting the growth of non-oil sectors, led by manufacturing, logistics, and fisheries.

He pointed out that economic diversification targets deepening the economy and raising productivity, noting that discussing local content aims to develop an integrated economic ecosystem and maximise the value generated from spending within the national economy.

He emphasised that enhancing

local content is a shared responsibility among the government, the private sector, and the consumer: the government sets policies and incentives, the private sector develops products and services, and the consumer gives the local product the opportunity to grow.

He stressed the necessity of uniting sincere efforts to stimulate and support the Omani product and increase local content across various sectors.

For his part, Al Moatasim Said Al Sariri, Director General of Local Content at Oman Investment Authority (OIA), explained that the Oman Local Content Forum in its 7th edition for 2026 is being held at an important stage in the economic development journey of the Sultanate of Oman, amidst continuous national efforts to achieve the targets of “Oman Vision 2040”, support economic diversification, and maximise the impact achieved from national investments.

He stated that Oman Investment Authority is heading toward a new phase focusing on several main pillars, consisting of enhancing digital readiness for the local content ecosystem, maximising the utilisation of data in decision-making, enhancing the innovation environment and empowering startups, localising industries, digital readiness, and maximising data utilisation.

He pointed out that up to September 2026, as many as 2,295 future tenders were floated through the “Foras” platform, with a total value of approxi-

mately OMR2.55 billion, reflecting the scale of opportunities that the private sector and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) can prepare to benefit from.

He mentioned that Oman Investment Authority and its subsidiaries possess a growing ecosystem to support innovation and entrepreneurship, comprising a number of accelerators, incubators, and specialised programmes in diverse economic sectors, where the number of accelerators and incubators reached more than 6 in specialised, active fields that periodically receive a group of entrepreneurs and startups entering work in the targeted sectors.

Regarding the empowerment of small and medium enterprises, he mentioned that the volume of spending on them rose from OMR187 million in 2022—equivalent to 10.9 percent of total spending on supply chains—to OMR279 million in 2025, increasing their share to about 19.9 percent.

He said that since the implementation of the guiding manual began, the Omanisation rate rose within 6 months to 56 percent at the beginning of 2026, and 1,768 jobs were created, including 1,408 jobs for Omanis.

The forum included two sessions: the first titled “Sustainability of Impact: Through Integration and Strategic Partnerships Between Public and Private Sectors,” and the second titled “Beyond Impact: Future of Local Content and Empowering Future Competencies.” — **ONA**

bp’s New Programmes Set to Benefit Communities Across Oman



Muscat, Oman 23, September 2026:

bp Oman has signed agreements with 11 Omani organizations to deliver the 12th cycle of its Block 61 social investment programme under its supervision; continuing its long-standing commitment to creating positive impact in communities across Oman.

The launch was attended by Her Highness Dr Muna bint Fahad Al Said, His Excellency Taher bin Ma'bhout bin Ali Al Junaibi, Governor of Ad Dhahirah Governorate, bp's Block 61 partners OQEP, PTTEP and PETRONAS, and representatives from the Omani companies that will deliver the programmes.

The programme supports initiatives that help people develop skills, access opportunities and contribute to their communities in collaboration with Omani-owned organizations.

This year's programmes focus on education, technology, entrepreneurship, sustainability, community development and inclusion in line with Oman's 2040 vision of building skills and opportunities for future generations.

Najla Zuhair Al Jamali, bp Oman president, said: “Together with our partners, we have reached more than **290,000** people across Oman since the launch of our programme. This progress shows the power of partnership in creating opportunities, developing skills

and supporting those who need it most. We look forward to building on that impact through this new cycle of programmes and thank our Block 61 partners, OQEP, PTTEP and PETRONAS for their continued support.”

Since 2014, bp Oman has worked alongside local organizations to design and deliver programmes that respond to community needs and help create new opportunities for people across the country.

The new cycle of social investment programme includes:

- **Marifah V8** by Children's Public Library (CPL), a programme that encourages reading through interactive workshops for children and parents.
- **Mahatat V3** by Al Masarah Youth, which equips electrical engineering graduates with the skills required for licensing and employment in electrical wiring and inspection.
- **FabTech Mobile Lab V5** by Innotech, helping students gain hands-on experience with engineering design software, 3D printing, laser cutting, and virtual and augmented reality technologies.
- **TAHLYA V8** by MEDRC, which trains graduates and promotes water conservation among students.
- **Smoothy Coding** by Tech-

Space, introducing grade 3 and 4 students to foundational programming through interactive learning experiences.

- **Habbah V4** by Youth Sada, supporting SMEs through training, mentoring and business development opportunities.
- **Youth Sada Centre V7** by Youth Sada, empowering young people to develop initiatives that create social and economic impact within their communities.
- **Girls in Tech** by Kidsity,

helping young Omani girls build skills and confidence in technology, innovation and future-focused careers.

- **Aman V2** by E-Mushrif, improving school bus safety through smart monitoring technology.
- **Amalcom** by Al Jabar, supporting aspiring entrepreneurs in transforming ideas into market-ready startups through business development and funding support.
- **Khazzan for SME Development V7** by Sharakah, helping Omani SMEs strengthen their capabilities, scale their businesses and create economic value through mentorship and business development support.
- **Sail Free V3** by Oman Sail, enabling people with disabilities to excel in sailing and represent Oman internationally through inclusive sports development.

Activities will begin rolling out over the coming months, with participating organizations sharing programme details through their respective channels.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower



National Gas, up 9.74%, was the top gainer while Al Hassan Engineering, down 16.67%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,556.89 points, down by 0.05% from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.07% at 622.10 points. National Gas, up 9.74%, was the top gainer while Al Hassan Engineering, down 16.67%, 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 10118 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 39.51 million, with more than 142.12 million shares changing hands. Out of 66 traded securities, 22 advanced, 21 declined, and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 486K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 381K, followed by domestic investors for RO 105K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 13,589.00 points, down -0.08%. Prices of Al Sharqia Investment, Oman Arab Bank, Oman & Emirates Investment, Takaful Oman, and Muscat Finance were up by 8.08%, 4.64%, 4.17%, 3.39%, and

1.52% respectively. Prices of DID-IC, Bank Dhofar, Bank Nizwa, National Bank Oman, and Global Financial Investments were down by 3.70%, 0.96%, 0.63%, 0.62%, and 0.28% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,870.21 points, down -0.02%. Prices of Dhofar Cattle Feed, Gulf International Chemicals, Salalah Mills, and Oman Flour Mills were up by 9.62%, 1.45%, 1.44%, 0.34% respectively. Prices of Al Hassan Engineering, Gulf Mushroom Products, Galfar Engineering, Jazeera Steel Products, and Oman Cables Industry were down by 16.67%, 1.61%, 0.65%, 0.22%, and 0.15% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.48% before closing at 3,009.61 points. Prices of National Gas, Muscat Desalination, Al Jazeera Services, Al Jazeera Services, and Al Batinah Power were up by 9.74%, 6.67%, 1.20%, 1.20%, and 0.51% respectively. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Renaissance Services, Majan College, Muscat Gases, and Sembcorp Salalah were down by 2.44%, 1.08%, 0.73%, 0.72%, and 0.39% respectively.

United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	7,578.87	7,544.38	7,556.89	7,560.32	-3.43	-0.05%
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,602.82	13,563.34	13,589.00	13,599.63	-10.63	-0.08%
Industry Index	9,887.66	9,797.79	9,870.21	9,872.09	-1.88	-0.02%
Services Index	3,016.94	2,995.21	3,009.61	2,995.21	14.40	0.48%
MSX Shariah Index	623.60	621.18	622.10	622.51	-0.41	-0.07%
MSX TR INDEX	11,750.20	11,696.71	11,716.11	11,721.43	-5.32	-0.05%
-0.05% FINANCIAL TR IDX	16,075.42	16,075.42	16,076.97	16,720.04	-13.07	-0.08%
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	12,663.58	12,548.48	12,643.64	12,643.64	-2.40	-0.02%
SERVICES TR IDX	4,050.82	4,021.65	4,040.99	4,021.65	19.34	0.48%
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
142,120,730	39,513,227	10,118	39,386,605,614	22	21	23	66

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN AS ON 23/09/2026

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

OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	1,233,705	130,101	75	0.102	0.107	0.101	0.107	0.099	0.008	8.081	0.107	0.106	0.107	0.100	9,630,000
OM0000001881	OMAN EMIRATES HO	1,000	125	1	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.120	0.005	4.167	0.125	0.120	0.132	0.100	15,996,094
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	1,209,825	346,348	129	0.280	0.290	0.280	0.283	0.274	0.009	3.285	0.283	0.283	0.290	0.100	413,916,213
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	37,500	9,383	10	0.250	0.253	0.250	0.253	0.250	0.003	1.200	0.253	0.250	0.250	0.100	10,839,277
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	2,994,897	260,942	12	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.001	1.149	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.100	31,339,202
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	20,550	4,029	5	0.198	0.198	0.196	0.196	0.195	0.001	0.513	0.196	0.196	0.212	0.100	132,277,696
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	54,250	10,601	10	0.195	0.198	0.195	0.196	0.195	0.001	0.513	0.196	0.194	0.197	0.100	140,023,643
OM0000001020	ASTAD SHIPPING	802,201	169,953	522	0.213	0.214	0.210	0.212	0.211	0.001	0.474	0.212	0.210	0.212	0.000	1104,253,787
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	6,748,455	1,473,196	1,667	0.218	0.219	0.217	0.219	0.218	0.001	0.459	0.219	0.219	0.219	0.100	948,406,638
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	542,700	219,281	273	0.404	0.405	0.403	0.405	0.404	0.001	0.248	0.405	0.402	0.405	0.100	311,931,001
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	300,100	95,982	5	0.320	0.320	0.319	0.320	0.320	0.000	0.000	0.320	0.315	0.319	0.100	33,600,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	19,280	3,952	5	0.205	0.205	0.204	0.205	0.205	0.000	0.000	0.205	0.205	0.220	0.100	63,039,451
OM0000003141	BAKHA WATER AND POWER	39,200	5,880	7	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.140	0.150	0.100	24,000,000
OM0000003388	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	55,256,613	453,970	1,860	0.190	0.191	0.189	0.190	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.190	0.206	0.190	0.100	1458,441,078
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	341,581	83,213	14	0.186	0.186	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.000	0.000	0.185	0.185	0.200	0.010	185,000,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	54,560	6,026	11	0.110	0.111	0.110	0.111	0.111	0.000	0.000	0.111	0.110	0.111	0.100	19,425,000
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	11,623,309	5,609,268	328	0.483	0.485	0.482	0.482	0.482	0.000	0.000	0.482	0.483	0.482	0.010	856,000,000
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	11,234,850	2,853,561	1,684	0.255	0.255	0.253	0.254	0.254	0.000	0.000	0.254	0.254	0.254	0.040	878,710,676
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	2,325	1,696	3	0.730	0.730	0.729	0.729	0.730	-0.001	-0.137	0.729	0.722	0.728	0.100	87,480,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	4,120	14,152	4	3.435	3.435	3.435	3.435	3.440	-0.005	-0.145	3.435	3.300	3.435	0.100	308,119,500
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	14,000	13,016	25	0.930	0.930	0.928	0.928	0.930	-0.002	-0.215	0.928	0.928	0.930	0.100	115,905,307
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	14,527,856	6,188,520	1,568	0.428	0.428	0.423	0.426	0.427	-0.001	-0.234	0.426	0.430	0.426	0.100	319,725,148
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	52,601	29,964	11	0.363	0.363	0.360	0.362	0.363	-0.001	-0.275	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.100	72,400,000
OM0000003968	QO RED DOO	230,141	72,785	47	0.316	0.317	0.316	0.316	0.317	-0.001	-0.315	0.316	0.316	0.329	0.100	205,698,977
OM0000009026	OMAN TELECOM	3,969,954	4,504,635	154	1.342	1.343	1.338	1.338	1.343	-0.005	-0.372	1.338	1.329	1.338	0.100	1,001,003,500,000
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	77,624	20,032	15	0.259	0.259	0.258	0.258	0.259	0.001	0.386	0.258	0.258	0.259	0.100	246,270,563
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	45,687	22,244	4	0.487	0.487	0.485	0.485	0.488	-0.003	-0.615	0.485	0.483	0.487	0.100	788,583,982
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	90,390	14,207	28	0.158	0.158	0.156	0.157	0.158	-0.001	-0.633	0.157	0.156	0.157	0.100	351,201,626
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	553,360	113,933	234	0.208	0.208	0.205	0.206	0.208	-0.002	-0.962	0.206	0.206	0.206	0.100	626,198,498
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	84,045	23,242	31	0.278	0.278	0.276	0.276	0.279	-0.003	-1.075	0.276	0.276	0.300	0.100	65,249,160
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	613	300	2	0.488	0.482	0.488	0.488	0.486	-0.008	-1.613	0.492	0.456	0.492	0.100	24,567,080
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	3,200	1,056	1	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.341	-0.011	-3.226	0.330	0.333	0.344	0.100	23,228,700
OM0000001509	DHOFA INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	121,158	34,563	15	0.288	0.288	0.288	0.285	0.286	0.297	-0.011	-3.704	0.286	0.286	0.100	33,228,700
OM0000002156	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	14,527,856	6,188,520	1,568	0.428	0.428	0.423	0.426	0.427	-0.001	-0.234	0.426	0.430	0.426	0.100	319,725,148
Total	33	111,721,650,327	769,855	8,760												

Parallel Market

OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	2,226,895	268,617	175	0.114	0.124	0.113	0.124	0.113	0.011	9.735	0.124	0.123	0.124	0.100	10,540,000
OM0000001301	DHOFA FOODS AND INVESTMENT	10,930	2,640	5	0.239	0.262	0.239	0.262	0.239	0.023	9.623	0.262	0.240	0.262	0.100	51,791,354
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	109,678	10,055	14	0.090	0.096	0.090	0.096	0.090	0.006	6.667	0.096	0.094	0.099	0.100	14,932,838
OM0000005290	OMAN ARAB BANK	578,952	162,513	86	0.280	0.293	0.280	0.293	0.280	0.013	4.643	0.293	0.289	0.302	0.100	586,803,797
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	11,443	694	3	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.061	0.059	0.002	3.390	0.061	0.059	0.064	0.100	15,250,000
OM0000001151	OMIFCO	26,303,130	6,115,261	883	0.229	0.235	0.228	0.235	0.229	0.006	2.620	0.235	0.234	0.235	0.000	1,572,003,125
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	64,104	4,231	6	0.066	0.067	0.066	0.067	0.066	0.001	1.515	0.067	0.066	0.067	0.100	20,578,804
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	4,200	294	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.001	1.449	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.100	1,470,000
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	10,200	5,723	3	0.561	0.565	0.561	0.565	0.557	0.008	1.436	0.565	0.565	0.612	0.100	35,291,631
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	360	33	1	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.092	0.001	1.087	0.093	0.093	0.098	0.100	6,512,786
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	2,518	452	2	0.179	0.180	0.179	0.180	0.177	0.001	0.559	0.180	0.178	0.190	0.100	106,458,638
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	33,389	19,072	10	0.585	0.587	0.560	0.587	0.585	0.002	0.342	0.587	0.560	0.587	0.100	101,928,881
OM0000001384	FINANCIAL SERVICES	13,515	3,244	2	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.000	0.264	0.100	4,800,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	4,010	4,411	3	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	0.000	0.000	1.100	1.100	1.100	0.100	55,000,000
OM0000002150	ALFAJAR ALAMIA	7,800	3,848	2	0.445	0.494	0.445	0.494	0.494	0.000	0.000	0.494	0.000	0.000	0.100	24,369,144
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	588,730	90,488	89	0.155	0.157	0.150	0.154	0.154	0.000	0.000	0.153	0.153	0.154	0.100	33,880,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	78	16	1	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.100	855,658,183
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	1,500	254	1	0.169	0.169	0.169	0.169	0.169	0.000	0.000	0.169	0.159	0.169	0.100	12,084,994
OM0000003711	SOHAR PHOSPHATE	766	153	1	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.190	0.200	0.100	4,000,000
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSURANCE	2,000	375	2	0.187	0.188	0.187	0.188	0.188	0.000	0.000	0.188	0.000	0.187	0.100	30,309,091
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	44,641	3,080	7	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.100	13,800,000
OM0000008447	OMAN RETT FUND	933	46	1	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.100	89,222,313
OM0000009623	OMAN GATEWAY	1,104	1,146	1	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	-0.004	-0.382	0.104	0.104	0.107	0.000	29,276,085
OM0000008352	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	14,385	29,183	23	0.153	0.153	0.151	0.153	0.154	0.001	-0.649	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.100	31,066,938
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	4,000	562	2	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.139	-0.001	-0.719	0.138	0.137	0.152	0.100	414,000
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	80,400	2,292	7	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.137	-0.001	-0.730	0.138	0.135	0.141	0.100	134,640,000
OM0000007407	DHOFA GENERATING	69,850	5,556	9	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.082	-0.002	-2.439	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.100	17,779,200
Total	27	30,900,614	6,733,253	1,341												



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Indian male Bcom Accountant looking for suitable job, 4yrs experience now in oman. Contact: 76369011

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

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

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World leaders discuss AI and climate change at the UNGA

On day 2 of the 81st UNGA session, tech industry leaders Sam Altman (OpenAI), Dario Amodei (Anthropic) and Clement Delangue (Hugging Face) will brief an emergency meeting of the 15-member UN Security Council



NEW YORK: As the UN General Assembly starts its second day, much attention will turn to artificial intelligence (AI) and climate change that will dominate the agenda at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Wednesday.

On day 2 of this 81st UNGA session, tech industry leaders Sam Altman (OpenAI), Dario Amodei (Anthropic) and Clement Delangue (Hugging Face) will brief an emergency meeting of the 15-member UN Security Council. Their attendance comes as international concerns — raised from within the industry — prompt debate over slowing AI development before the new technology potentially spins out of control with unknown consequences.

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday blasted calls to slow the technology as part of a “globalist scheme,” brushing aside warnings that it could wipe out humanity

within years if left unchecked.

Iranian and US representatives have met on the sidelines of the General Assembly in New York, but, as has been the case for months, a peace deal remains elusive and the flow of oil through the blockaded Strait of Hormuz stunted.

Climate urgency is on the slate, with outgoing UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres blasting fossil fuel giants for treating the Earth’s atmosphere like an “open sewer” for emissions.

He further chided “big oil” for its greed as the world grapples with armed conflict.

“Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, five major Western oil companies have pocketed nearly half a trillion dollars in profits,” he said, noting that at the same time just \$34 billion (€29.8 billion) had been invested in helping developing countries adapt to a warming world.

Brazil, Germany, India and Japan renew calls for Security Council reform

The foreign ministers of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan on Wednesday called for the reform of the UN Security Council (UNSC), saying it was more urgent than ever.

“Given the increasingly challenging geopolitical environment, UNSC reform is more necessary than ever before,” the four foreign ministers said in a joint statement issued after the diplomats met on Tuesday.

Five permanent members

The Security Council is a 15-member body with five permanent members — China, France, Russia, the UK and US — known as the P5 and 10 rotating members elected to two-year terms by the General Assembly.

Permanent members enjoy veto powers, which often means the body is kept from carrying out res-

solutions due to conflicts with the interests of one or more of them.

UK’s Andy Burnham: ‘Britain is back’

In his debut as UK prime minister at the UNGA debate, Andy Burnham declared “Britain is back” 10 years after the country dealt with the turbulence caused by Brexit.

Burnham said the UK is “restoring our stability” and “building a more dynamic economy” while seeking trade and working together with other countries to tackle shared problems.

However, he said the UK needs to deal with forces of division and instability. He said this begins with Britain boosting its defense expenditures as a NATO member state and strengthening European capabilities.

Another issue Burnham addressed was disinformation being sowed online by Russia-aligned actors.

Burnham also addressed the is-



sue of AI, saying global standards are needed because “fundamental decisions on this technology are too important to be left to chance.” Burnham said the UK will work on convincing other countries regarding rules on AI transparency and access to AI models

telligence, Space, health sciences, energy and culture was the main topic of discussion.

“Our shared interests and complementary capabilities offer immense scope for cooperation. Agreed to meet again soon to take the discussion forward,” Jaishankar said in a post on X.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the ministers reviewed the progress made in trilateral cooperation in the agreed areas of mutual interest, particularly space, artificial intelligence, and culture and heritage.

The three ministers also exchanged views on the situation in West Asia and discussed ways to further strengthen and expand cooperation across areas of common interest.

The MEA said the ministers emphasised the importance of building further on the “strong and friendly ties” between the three countries and advancing cooperation through concrete initiatives.

India, France and the UAE reaffirmed their commitment to developing constructive ties through practical initiatives and agreed to meet at regular intervals to review progress across areas where the three countries can work together, the MEA statement read.

The trilateral meeting in New York comes as the three countries continue to focus on cooperation spanning emerging technologies, space, energy, health sciences and culture, alongside discussions on regional developments. — Agencies

LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND



Nepal seeks \$20mn climate compensation after devastating floods

KATHMANDU: Nepal is seeking \$20 million (just under €17.5 million) from the international Loss and Damage Fund, the UN-backed mechanism designed to support countries suffering irreversible climate-related losses, Environment Minister Geeta Chaudhary said in an exclusive DW interview.

The move comes after floods and landslides killed more than 1,400 people in August and left thousands missing.

“We have already issued the official letter for the fund for the loss and damage,” Chaudhary told DW. “Most of the countries have sent us a positive response.”

The flash flooding caused widespread destruction across large swathes of Nepal, damaging homes, agricultural land and infrastructure. Rescue and recovery efforts are still ongoing in several areas, while authorities continue to assess the full scale of the losses.

In the Himalayan nation, the tragedy has become a powerful symbol of what developing countries describe as the unfair climate burden of contributing little to global emissions while facing disproportionate consequences.

‘Sympathy alone will not work for us’

Talking to DW, Chaudhary repeatedly framed Nepal’s response through the lens of climate justice, a concept that has

become increasingly prominent in global climate negotiations.

“Sympathy alone will not work for us,” she said. “We don’t need sympathy. We need justice. It’s high time. If you’re not able to give us justice, then we also don’t need the words.”

“Those countries who are emitting the most and are able to contribute the funds, they need to pay for the climatic disasters like what we are facing,” she said.

Nepal contributes roughly 0.1% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Its geography, however, makes it extremely vulnerable to climate-related risks. Rising temperatures in the Himalayas have accelerated glacial retreat and increased concerns about glacial lake outburst floods, landslides and extreme weather events across the region.

In the wake of the most recent disaster, the government has intensified calls for more adaptation financing, direct access to climate funds and stronger international commitments to fight consequences of climate change.

‘The world is watching’

Chaudhary pointed to melting glaciers, warming temperatures and changes in mountain environments as factors behind the deadly floods.

“Our evidence is showing that this catastrophic event is because of climate change,” Chaudhary said. — ANI

NEW STUDY

World governments lagging on key United Nations biodiversity targets

NEW YORK: World governments are off track to meet a historic United Nations target to protect at least 30% of the planet’s land and seas by the year 2030, according to a new study published on Wednesday.

The research by environmental groups Campaign for Nature and Together for the Ocean shows that about 20% of land and inland waters are designated as protected or conserved, following the signing of the 30x30 goal in 2022.

If nations fully deliver on existing quantified commitments, the estimate could increase to 27% by the turn of the decade, the report said. The 30x30 goal was adopted under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at COP15 and was signed by nearly 200 nations that pledged at least \$200 billion (about €175 billion) annually to reduce biodiversity loss.



Only ‘a third’ of target reached in ocean protection

For the world’s oceans, the study says protection is “lagging.”

The coverage is currently at 10% of global ocean and could only reach 12% by 2030, the research revealed.

“The ocean is emerging as one of the defining implementation chal-

lenges of 30x30,” Together for the Ocean said, adding that important marine ecosystems, like offshore and deep-sea habitats, remain “vulnerable.”

Last month, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN treaty dedicated to the global nature goals, also cautioned that countries were not on track.

Funding gap

The report singled out finance for conservation as “one of the greatest barriers” to reaching global targets.

The research said that between \$100 billion and \$180 billion was needed each year to make the 2030 target. Current annual spending, however, amounted to just \$24 bil-

lion. “The gap is particularly stark for the ocean, where approximately \$16 billion is needed annually, but only an estimated \$ 1.8 billion is currently spent,” the study said.

From October 19, the UN biodiversity summit in Yerevan will see the nations address the progress shortfall and assess ways of getting back on target. — DW

DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL RELIEF

Medical aid shortages deepen Gaza’s health crisis

RAMALLAH: The director of Medical Relief in Gaza, Mohammad Abu Afash, said stocks of 45 types of medicines have been completely depleted, while hospitals are facing a 54% shortage of medical supplies and a deficit of more than 80% in laboratory materials.

Speaking to Voice of Palestine, Abu Afash said the solutions provided so far have been partial and temporary. He noted that shortages of diesel, medicines, medical supplies, and intravenous solutions have forced health facilities

to scale back services, with some hospitals suspending operations except for emergency care.

Abu Afash warned of additional health risks as shortages persist and winter approaches, potentially bringing waves of viral infections and other diseases.

He said large numbers of wounded and sick Palestinians, including patients with chronic illnesses, require ongoing medical care and medication, while the volume of medical aid and fuel entering the Gaza Strip has declined.

Abu Afash said data from the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health indicate that between 300,000 and 350,000 people in Gaza have diabetes, while more than 82,000 patients require medication. He explained that the quantities of medicines entering the Strip cover only 15% to 20% of their needs.

He warned that continued shortages would further worsen conditions for patients and the wounded in Gaza, calling for the establishment of a medical and

humanitarian corridor to ensure the regular entry of medicines and medical supplies and to facilitate the evacuation of patients requiring treatment outside the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, Two Palestinians were killed on Wednesday when an Israeli drone struck a vehicle in the northern al-Mawasi area of Khan Younis, south of the Gaza Strip.

Local sources reported that an Israeli drone targeted a vehicle in the area, killing two Palestinians. — WAPA

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS



Oman’s efforts in humanitarian crises reviewed

NEW YORK: The Sultanate of Oman and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) (Doctors Without Borders) discussed prospects for future cooperation and ways to enhance coordination and cooperation in the humanitarian and medical fields of mutual interest.

This came during a meeting between Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Al Qatabi, Head of the International Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry and Laura Leyser, Secretary-General of the International Office of Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), held at the

headquarters of the Sultanate of Oman’s Mission to the United Nations in New York.

The meeting, which was held on the sidelines of the eighty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly, addressed the medical and humanitarian situations in a number of conflict and crisis zones, as well as the current humanitarian and regional challenges.

The meeting also reviewed the efforts of the Sultanate of Oman in supporting humanitarian endeavors and contributing to mitigating the repercussions of crises. -ONA

Oman participates in meeting with Trump

During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in the Middle East, the challenges currently facing the region

NEW YORK: The Sultanate of Oman participated in a multilateral meeting hosted by US President Donald Trump and attended by leaders and representatives from several Gulf and Arab countries and the Republic of Türkiye. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Oman was represented by Talal Sulaiman Habib Al Rahbi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United States of America, accompanied by officials.



During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in the Middle East, the challenges

currently facing the region, and efforts to de-escalate tensions and strengthen security and stability.

Participants also explored ways to support diplomatic efforts and peaceful solutions to crises.

Oman reaffirmed the importance of dialogue and diplomacy, alongside intensified regional and international efforts to contain tensions and create conditions conducive to peaceful and sustainable solutions. These safeguard regional security and stability, and fulfil the aspirations of the region’s peoples for peace.

AL DAKHILIYAH



Suroor Tourist Walkway: From community initiative to rural tourism destination

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Suroor Tourist Walkway in the Wilayat of Samail, Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, has evolved from a community-led initiative into a rural tourism destination generating local economic activity, with existing investments of about OMR190,900 across 26 projects.

Stretching approximately 4 kilometres through the village, the walkway passes through agricultural orchards, palm groves, irrigation channels and historic houses. Development works at the site have included the restoration of heritage houses, improvement of internal pathways, preparation of parking areas and support services, and enhancement of safety facilities.

The site’s 26 projects include cafes, restaurants, sweets outlets, rest areas and products by productive families. Together, they have generated 52 job opportunities, with Omanis accounting for 76.9% of the workforce.

Sheikh Mahmoud bin Rashid Al Saadi, in charge of running the



affairs of the Governor of Al Dakhiliyah, said the governorate is focused on supporting community initiatives that serve the public interest and reflect local needs and the distinctive characteristics of each area.

He said the governorate plans to launch a tender in the coming period to prepare consultancy studies for the rehabilitation and development of the Suroor Tourist Walkway.

The studies will establish an integrated technical framework for the project’s next phase, taking into account the site’s natural features, rural character and heritage

identity, while identifying requirements for developing facilities and services.

He said the move to the consultancy phase builds on the work undertaken by the local community and will help organise the project’s development in coordination with the relevant authorities.

He noted that developing rural tourism sites and routes can increase the local community’s share of tourism activity while creating opportunities for entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises to provide products and services for visitors.

The Vice President of the

Suroor Development Foundation for Financial Sustainability, said the project had created economic activity linked to rural tourism and provided opportunities for job seekers, students and members of the local community.

He said the foundation would work during the next phase to strengthen the project’s financial sustainability by developing services and activities along the route, expanding the participation of productive families, entrepreneurs and SMEs, and diversifying tourism and community events.

Potential areas for further development include tourist guidance, event management, content creation and visitor services, alongside partnerships aimed at supporting the project while preserving its heritage and environmental identity.

The Walkway reflects efforts to promote rural tourism in Al Dakhiliyah by leveraging the natural, agricultural and heritage assets of villages and wilayats, while creating sustainable tourism destinations and linking tourism activity with the local economy.

WORKSHOP

Discussion on reduction in carbon footprint

SOHAR: A workshop on the roadmap for carbon emissions reduction and enhancing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards was held yesterday in Sohar, with the participation of a group of specialists from various relevant government entities and private sector institutions, to discuss trends and priorities and identify practical pathways to support the transition toward a more sustainable and lower-emission industry.



The workshop discussed a number of issues related to the future of industrial sustainability, including net-zero targets for various sectors in the Sultanate of Oman, key relevant policies and legislation, developments associated with carbon markets, and challenges facing the aluminium industry in the field of sustainability.

It also included a review of Sohar Aluminium’s roadmap toward reducing carbon emissions and greenhouse gases associated with its operations.

The discussions focused on a number of areas representing key opportunities to reduce the environmental footprint of aluminium production operations, led by the circular economy, aluminium scrap recycling, energy efficiency, utilising renewable energy sources, and improving resource efficiency across operations and the supply chain.

Eng. Said Mohammed Al Masoudi, CEO of Sohar Aluminium, pointed out in a speech that the

transition toward a low-carbon economy extends beyond being an environmental responsibility to become one of the influential factors in the future of industry, its competitiveness, and its capability to achieve sustainable growth.

He indicated that achieving tangible results in emissions reduction requires integrating efforts and exchanging knowledge and expertise, emphasising the importance of cooperation between the public and private sectors and various stakeholders to develop practical, executable solutions supporting national and industrial sustainability goals.

This workshop comes at a time when global industry is moving toward reshaping production models to achieve higher resource efficiency and lower emissions, which reinforces the importance of continuing to develop local capabilities and adopting solutions and technologies supporting sustainable industrial transformation. -ONA

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGES

Initiative for inclusion of persons with hearing disabilities

MUSCAT: The closing ceremony of the ‘Guiding Communication’ initiative (“With a Hand Gesture, We Communication”) was held on Wednesday within the activities of the International Day of Sign Languages, which falls on 23 September of every year.

The event took place at the Aviation Hall of the Civil Aviation Authority, organized by Al Tawasul Training Institute in partnership with the “Nafeth” application and Oman Human Rights Commission.

The closing ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Abdullah bin Hamoud Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development for Persons with Disabilities Affairs.

The “Guiding Communication” initiative is categorised as a national initiative to spread the culture of guiding communication and enhance community inclusion



for persons with hearing disabilities. It aims to raise awareness of sign language, correct misconceptions about hearing disability, familiarise persons with hearing disabilities with their legal rights

and duties through explaining the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, spread the culture of etiquette when interacting with persons with hearing disabilities, and promote positive communication

between persons with hearing disabilities and society.

The initiative aspires to expand geographically to cover all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, where the total statistical figure for

persons with hearing disabilities in the Sultanate of Oman stands at approximately 17,046.

It also seeks to establish strategic partnerships with government entities and private institutions to ensure continuous financial and logistical support for the initiative, enhance its media presence through permanent content reaching wider segments of society, and make sign language a primary language in the Sultanate of Oman.

The initiative, which was implemented across 5 stations at various locations, delivered a number of training and awareness programs benefiting over 150 male and female employees from the government sector, more than 125 community members, in addition to more than 110 persons with hearing disabilities.

The closing ceremony included a presentation of the initiative’s key outcomes and a visual presentation

documenting the initiative’s stations since its inception.

The ceremony also featured two working papers: the first dealt with “Human Rights for Persons with Disabilities” presented by Oman Human Rights Commission, while the second addressed “Technology and Sign Language Interpretation” presented by Nahj Tech Company, alongside a visual presentation titled “Partnership Creating Impact” highlighting the key partnership efforts among the initiative’s supporting entities.

The ceremony’s programme concluded with a working paper titled “Sustainable Sign Empowerment System” presented by Sultan Al Amiri, CEO of “Nafeth” application and Executive Director of Al Tawasul Training Institute, in which he addressed the prospects for sustaining work on empowering sign communication and its future development. -ONA

SPORTS

Arteta agrees to a new deal with champions Arsenal

The Spaniard was appointed head coach of the Gunners in December 2019

LONDON: Mikel Arteta on Tuesday agreed to a new contract with Premier League champions Arsenal. The Spaniard's current deal expires at the end of this season but talks over a new contract have been ongoing for a number of months.

BBC Sport reported earlier this month that an agreement between all parties was close.

And it is now understood Arteta has reached a final agreement with the Gunners to extend his stay.

There is no confirmation over the length of his new contract but it is set to take him into at least his

10th year at the club following his arrival in December 2019.

The new contract will also include a sharp pay increase from his current salary of £10m per year plus an additional £5m in bonuses.

Speaking about his contract talks, Arteta said last week that fans did not need to "worry" because he wanted to stay.

"I'm extremely happy and I feel very grateful to work with the people I work with," he said.

News of Arteta's agreement over a new deal at Arsenal won't come as a shock - but it is a major development nevertheless.

The fact his existing deal expires at the end of the season did put a slightly greater emphasis on the speed of discussions than normal.

But Arteta has been transparent about his desire to stay at the club beyond the end of this campaign. Dynasty building is what has driven Arteta's decision. Winning Arsenal's first Premier League title in 20 years last season is viewed as just the start.

Coming within a penalty kick of winning their first Champions League trophy came as a gut-wrenching blow - but also a huge motivation.

With that in mind, there was never a sense Arteta was preparing to walk away from the team he has built to become one of the best in European football. So with a deal for their manager to stay now agreed, the foundation of Arsenal's recent revitalisation into a footballing force remains in place. - Agencies



FORMULA ONE

Hadjar to stay at Red Bull for 2027 season

LONDON: Frenchman Isack Hadjar is to stay at Red Bull as Max Verstappen's team-mate for the 2027 season.

The 21-year-old was promoted to the senior team this season after a rookie year with Racing Bulls and has managed to be closer to Verstappen on pace than any team-mate since Daniel Ricciardo in 2018. His best result this season came with a third place at the Monaco GP.

Red Bull team principal Laurent Mekies described the move as "an easy decision".

Mekies said: "Since joining us at the start of the year, Isack has been superb on and off track, especially considering this is only his second F1 season."

Hadjar returns to Red Bull for this weekend's Azerbaijan Grand Prix after missing the past three races with a broken wrist, an injury sustained while boxing as part of his training programme.

Mekies added: "You could see from his first weekend in Melbourne that he handled the step up with remarkable composure and had earned his place in this seat. The period since his injury has been a difficult one for Isack, but this extension shows how much we believe in him."

Hadjar said: "I came to this team eight months ago and immediately understood the scale and ambition of this organisation. There are so many talented people at the factory, and you're aware of the privilege of driving for such an incredible team alongside a four-time world champion like Max. I'm constantly looking to listen, learn and push myself further every single day, which only makes me more excited about what lies ahead."

Verstappen signed a two-year extension to his contract, that now runs to the end of 2030, in August. - Agencies

FRANCE STRIKER

Mbappe: I was 'close to joining' Liverpool in 2016



LONDON: French striker Kylian Mbappe has revealed how "close" he came to joining Liverpool in 2016, saying he went against the advice of his mother who "fell in love" with Anfield.

The Real Madrid striker said the Reds tried to sign him at 18, while he was playing for Monaco in Ligue 1.

Former Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp said the club laid on a private jet and food for Mbappe and his family in an attempt to sign him, before he eventually joined Paris Saint-Germain.

Speaking to the Athletic, Mbappe said his mum was a "big fan" of Klopp and wanted her son to move to Merseyside.

"I was close to [joining] Liverpool. The favourite destination for my mum was Liverpool. She wanted me to go there," he said.

"I didn't listen because I wanted to play in my city, Paris. I didn't

want to leave my country before I was someone.

"But yes, my mum was always saying, 'Liverpool - you're going to be there, playing at Anfield, it's going to be insane for you.'"

Negotiation

Mbappe, now 27, said his mother went out to Liverpool for the "first step" of the negotiation.

"She went to the city, the stadium, she met the people. She was like, 'it's a wonderful club, everybody's so kind, it's a family club, a big club', said Mbappe.

"She went to Anfield and fell in love with it. She watched a few games alone, to feel the atmosphere, because she wanted to imagine me in this stadium."

Klopp, who spoke about the possible move on Magenta TV as a pundit at the 2026 World Cup, explained how a flight was taken from Blackpool to Nice in France,

where "the entire Mbappe family boarded a private jet with five rooms or something".

"We really went all out. Then we flew around in a circle, talked with the family, ate good food," Klopp said. He said they had not wanted to be seen having talks - but the meeting proved fruitless.

"We flew in a circle. It was fantastic. And then he went to Paris," Klopp added.

"It's a funny story," said Mbappe.

"But in the end, I took the decision to go to PSG because for me, born and raised in Paris, there was no better feeling than to show I could be a star in my hometown."

Mbappe later joined PSG on loan, in a deal including an option for the move to become permanent for 180m euros (£165.7m).

He went on to spend seven years in Paris, becoming the club's record scorer before leaving for Real Madrid in 2024. - Agencies

CONTRACT EXPIRES IN DECEMBER

Argentina players urge coach Scaloni to stay

Buenos Aires: Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni continues to mull over his future at the helm of national team, but his players have left no doubt about where they stand.

"For me, he is one of the most important coaches," midfielder Nicolás Paz said upon arriving in Buenos Aires on Tuesday for training camp. "He gave me my debut, and I hope he stays."

Scaloni, whose contract is set to expire in December, had hinted at stepping down following Argentina's 1-0 loss to Spain in the World Cup final in July. He remains in negotiations with the Argentine Football Association over a potential extension.

Veteran defender Cristian Romero added: "We hope he stays. He is the key figure in building this national team, so obviously we want him to continue."

Other squad members echoed the sentiment. Defender Leonardo Balerdi called it "a privilege" if Scaloni remains, while Benfica winger Gianluca Prestianni highlighted the manager's impact, stating, "He gave everything to the national team in recent times and made all Argentines very happy."

Goalkeeper Juan Musso emphasised the deep connection within the squad: "Given the success he's had and what he built with this team, we hold him in high regard and have great affection for him."

Since taking charge eight years ago, the 48-year-old Scaloni has overseen one of the most dominant runs in international football.

As the architect behind the 2022 World Cup title and back-to-back Copa América victories in 2021 and 2024, Scaloni boasts a remarkable record over 104 matches: 76 wins, 18 draws, and just 10 losses.

Argentina lost to Spain 1-0 in the World Cup final in July. Scaloni orchestrated the longest undefeated streak in Argentine history, spanning 36 games.

Messi's farewell

Adding to the emotional weight of the upcoming international window, Argentina will host friendlies against Bolivia, Burkina Faso, and Benin between Sept. 30 and Oct. 6. The final match at the Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires will serve as an official farewell to captain Lionel Messi, following his announcement of international retirement. - Agencies



SPANISH LEAGUE

Real Madrid call Tebas' comments 'intolerable', seek new league chief

MADRID: Real Madrid called for a new Spanish league president on Tuesday, arguing that Javier Tebas' comments against the club regarding refereeing complaints were "intolerable."

Madrid released a statement hours after Tebas criticised the club for attacking the refereeing crew in the team's 2-1 loss at Atletico Madrid on Sunday.

The club said that "given this inappropriate behaviour," Spanish football "urgently needs a leader capable of managing it and developing its full potential with the fundamental duty of neutrality."

"It needs someone who understands the nature of their role, as the president of La Liga is not the owner of the competition but a manager serving the clubs that comprise it and entrust him with its direction," Real Madrid said.

"The clubs need someone who serves this mission with honesty."



Tebas responded to Madrid's statement saying he "fully" agreed with one thing: "The president of La Liga is not the owner of the competition. Neither is the

president of Real Madrid."

"I am neither the owner of La Liga nor will I manage it as if it belonged to a single club," Tebas said on social media.



"I respect everyone. I am beholden to no one." Madrid and Tebas have often traded barbs on various issues related to Spanish and European football.

Madrid said on Tuesday they do not accept Tebas' use of "his institutional position to continue discrediting and attacking Real Madrid."

"It is also very concerning that someone who is responsible for representing and protecting the interests of all La Liga clubs is repeatedly obsessed with targeting Real Madrid, turning our club into a constant subject of his public attacks," the club said.

Tebas said on X that Madrid are always finding an excuse to complain, and that they uses the alleged referees' mistake as a way to hide its deficiencies.

Tebas was responding to an article that talked about an alleged conspiracy against Madrid.

"To claim that referees are targeting Real Madrid is to live in another galaxy," Tebas said.

"That narrative serves as a smokescreen to mask other shortcomings that are glaringly obvious in these opening matches of the season."

The defeat to Atletico left Real Madrid in fourth place after seven league rounds, six points behind leaders Barcelona. - Agencies

Teenager Yu completes hat-trick of gold medals at Asian Games

The 13-year-old Chinese swimmer has so far won gold in the 200m butterfly, 200m and 400m individual medley in Aichi- Nagoya

NAGOYA: Thirteen-year-old swimming star Yu Zidi claimed a dominant victory in the 400m individual medley to complete a hat-trick of gold medals at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya.



China's Yu led from start to finish, setting a new Games record of four minutes 28.56 seconds, smashing the previous record - which had stood since 2014 - by nearly 4.5 seconds. Her time is the fourth fastest in the world this year, with only Canada's world record holder Summer McIntosh having gone quicker. Yu was 3.95 seconds clear of

compatriot Ke Wenxi, who took silver, with Japan's Mio Narita claiming bronze. Having already won gold in the 200m butterfly and 200m individual medley in Nagoya - both in Games record times - Yu is widely tipped to contend for medals at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Meanwhile, North Korean weightlifter Ri Song Gum broke



three world records on her way to securing her third Asian Games gold in the women's 49kg category. Defending champion Ri, 28, lifted 94kg in the snatch segment and followed up with a clean-and-jerk of 121kg, both marks 1kg more than the previous world bests. It gave her a total haul of 215kg—4kg more than the previous world record. "The world record and this

gold medal hold great meaning for me, because of everything I poured into this competition," Ri said. "I stepped onto the competition floor today carrying that faith and those expectations." **Al Attiyah claims gold** Six-time Dakar Rally champion Nasser Al Attiyah added another title to his remarkable sporting

career on Wednesday, helping Qatar win the men's skeet team gold medal at the Asian Games. The 55-year-old, who claimed his sixth Dakar Rally title in January, secured his third Asian Games gold medal and sixth shooting medal overall, 32 years after making his debut at the 1994 Hiroshima Games. "To start from the Hiroshima Asian Games and to come back here again, and today for our team to win two gold medals, is really amazing," Al Attiyah said. Despite having only two months to prepare for the Games due to his rallying commitments, Al Attiyah hit 120 of 125 targets in qualification, posting one of the day's three highest scores. He qualified third for the individual final but finished fifth. "My performance was really very good and strong," he said. "I achieved a very high score, one of the highest in the field." - Agencies

SERIES FROM OCTOBER 22

Ravindra ruled out of India T20I series after promo shoot injury



CHRISTCHURCH: Rachin Ravindra has been ruled out of New Zealand's T20I series against India due to the shoulder injury he sustained during a promotional shoot last week. Ravindra is expected to need around six weeks to recover with the aim for him to be available for the ODIs which begin on November 4. The T20I series starts on October 22 in Christchurch. "We're gutted for Rachin," New Zealand head coach Rob Walter said. "He's going to play a big role for us this summer so it's important that he doesn't rush his rehab, but we're optimistic he'll be back for the ODIs." Bevon Jacobs, who has played 11 T20Is and made an unbeaten 62 in his last outing against Bangladesh, has been included as a middle-order option. Fast bowler Adam Milne is in line to play his first T20Is in more than a year. Milne is part of a strong group of pace bowlers for the five-match T20I series alongside Lockie Ferguson, Matt Hen-

ry, Kyle Jamieson Jacob Duffy, Zak Foulkes and Nathan Smith. Ben Sears was not considered as he recovers from an ankle injury. Walter said that the large pool of fast bowlers would help manage workloads at the start of a busy season which sees New Zealand tour Australia for four Tests after India's visit before returning home to play Sri Lanka next year. Finn Allen and Tim Seifert, who both hold casual contracts with NZC and will play the BBL later in the year, will be reunited at the top of the order for the first time since the T20 World Cup. It means there is no place in the squad for Tim Robinson. The five T20Is against India are followed by five ODIs and two Tests. **NZ squad for T20Is:** Mitchell Santner (capt), Finn Allen, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Lockie Ferguson, Zak Foulkes, Matt Henry, Bevon Jacobs, Kyle Jamieson, Adam Milne, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Tim Seifert, Nathan Smith. - Agencies

TO QUIT PAKISTAN SET-UP

Aussie Noffke named Netherlands men's cricket head coach

AMSTERDAM: Former Australia all-rounder Ashley Noffke will leave his position as the Pakistan bowling coach after the Asian Games 2026 in Japan and will take over as the head coach of the Netherlands men's team for two years. Noffke's original contract with Pakistan was until June 2027 but he becomes their most recent support staff member to depart after Shane McDermott left as fielding coach in July this year to join the Afghanistan set-up. Before that, Pakistan's white-ball batting coach Hanif Malik and their long-serving physiotherapist Cliffe Deacon had left in May after the ODI series against Australia. Noffke ends his stint with Pakistan after spending less than 18 months as he had joined them in May 2025 before the T20I series against Bangladesh. He will succeed Ryan Cook to lead the Netherlands support staff after signing a contract that will run until the end of 2028. The major ICC assignments for him in this period will be to try and qualify for the 2027 ODI World Cup and



the 2028 T20 World Cup. "I'm looking forward to working with the Dutch men's team, which has become a fixture at the T20 World Cups," Noffke said in a release issued by the Netherlands board. "This is a talented, motivated group, and my goal is to help continue that development and move the programme forward." Noffke comes with a high-profile CV, having won titles around the world with Brisbane Heat in the WBBL, London Spirit in the Hundred and Queensland Fire in the WNCL. He also led the Otago men's programme in New Zealand and was with UP Warriorz in the WPL before joining the Pakistan set-up. - Agencies

RESERVE YOUR TABLE

Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma (Social Impact) Awards 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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ROUND-UP

Al Mouj Muscat hands over completed buildings of Al Mouj Business Park



Work Reimagined: The new oceanfront business district introduces a next-generation workplace environment where connectivity, wellbeing and lifestyle come together

MUSCAT: Al Mouj Muscat, Oman's leading lifestyle destination, has handed over four completed buildings of Al Mouj Business Park to their owners, marking an important milestone for the eight-building development. The handover brings the Business Park closer to welcoming companies and their teams, as a new business community begins to take shape within Al Mouj Muscat.

Set along Al Mouj Muscat's six-kilometre coastline and within Al Mouj Golf, one of the world's top



100 golf courses, the Business Park brings a new workplace destination to the heart of one of Oman's most established integrated communities. Designed around the evolving needs of modern businesses, it combines Grade A office space with access to hospitality, retail, dining and leisure experiences within a connected coastal environment.

Spanning 39,000 square metres across eight mid-rise buildings in two districts, Al Mouj Business

Park has been designed to support a more connected and collaborative way of working. Landscaped gardens and outdoor spaces link the buildings, creating opportunities for interaction and business networking, while the wider destination offers a distinctive setting where professional and lifestyle experiences come together.

Ahmed Al Massan, Acting CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, said: "The handover of the first four buildings of Al Mouj Business Park marks an im-



portant milestone in the continued evolution of Al Mouj Muscat. Companies are increasingly seeking workplaces that support productivity, wellbeing and meaningful connections, while giving their teams access to a wider range of experiences and amenities. Work Reimagined, the theme behind Al Mouj Business Park, captures this shift, bringing premium workspace into an established destination where business, lifestyle and community come together. We look forward to seeing this new business community take shape as owners prepare their spaces for occupation and as the remaining buildings move

steadily towards completion."

The milestone builds on Al Mouj Muscat's 20-year journey of transforming Oman's coastline into a dynamic destination that brings together residential, tourism, retail and lifestyle experiences. Al Mouj Business Park adds a new economic dimension to this ecosystem, expanding the role of the destination as a place to do business and reinforcing Al Mouj Muscat's contribution to Oman's investment and business landscape.

The complete sell-out of Al Mouj Business Park reflects strong market confidence in the demand for premium commercial environ-

ments that combine strategic location with an integrated lifestyle offering. Located minutes from key business and transport hubs, the Business Park provides convenient access to Muscat International Airport, Muscat City Centre and the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Its proximity to The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort and the upcoming The Okura Resort Muscat, alongside nearby hospitality offerings including Kempinski Hotel Muscat, Mysk Al Mouj and voco Muscat Al Mouj, further supports its role as a destination for business engagement, meetings and events.

NOW OPEN FOR BOOKINGS

Unlock ultimate winter exploration with magnificent iCAUR V27 REEV

MUSCAT: iCAUR, the innovative new energy brand developed by Chery Group, is proud to feature one of the best selling REEV vehicle in Oman—the flagship iCAUR V27—now open for bookings across the Sultanate of Oman. Exclusively represented in Oman by New World Autos, the iCAUR V27 combines heritage, luxury and advanced automotive engineering designed specifically for the region's diverse landscape.

1,000km+ of Freedom: The Power of REEV

The iCAUR V27 is powered by cutting-edge Range Extended Electric Vehicle (REEV) technology. Unlike traditional hybrids, the V27 utilizes its high-efficiency internal combustion engine solely as an on-board generator to charge the electric motors, delivering a massive total range exceeding 1,000 kilometres. For Omani adventurers and nature lovers, this translates to complete peace of mind. Whether you are driving deep into the Sharqiya Sands for a midnight campfire or setting off from Muscat toward the serene coastal roads of Dhofar, you can embark on long, uninterrupted journeys without worrying about EV charging stations or frequent fuel stops.

Power your winter outdoor gatherings with V2L technology

As the cooler winter season approaches in Oman, outdoor living becomes the heart of family life. Whether taking the family for a weekend picnic at Al Riyam Park, setting up a luxury desert camp in Wahiba Sands, or enjoying an overnight beach trip along the coast of Sur, the iCAUR V27 acts as your mobile power hub through its advanced Vehicle-to-Load (V2L) technology.

With V2L functionality, the V27 transforms into a heavy-duty port-



able power bank:

- Outdoor Cooking: Plug in electric grills, coffee makers, Karak heaters, or portable induction stoves for effortless alfresco family feasts.
- Campsite Illumination & Comfort: Power ambient lights, portable fans, electric coolers and entertainment devices under the starlit Omani night.
- Convenient Device Charging: Keep laptops, cameras and gear charged for every family member,

wherever your journey takes you.

From daytime family BBQs to overnight desert stays, V2L elevates outdoor recreation into a seamless, high-comfort experience.

Sports car thrills meets off-road soul

Beneath its bold and rugged silhouette, the iCAUR V27 packs astonishing performance credentials. Generating a formidable 449 BHP, the SUV accelerates from 0

to 100 km/h in just 5.9 seconds.

Whether overtaking on the open lanes of the Al Batinah Expressway or navigating the steep, twisting hairpins of Jebel Akhdar and Jebel Shams, the V27 delivers instant torque and precise handling—offering sports car exhilaration alongside rugged off-road capability.

Class-leading space for the whole crew

Designed to accommodate large

families and heavy gear, the V27 features exceptional spatial engineering:

- 48 Dedicated Storage Compartments: Intelligently placed throughout the interior for smartphones, Karak flasks, sunglasses and personal items.
- 715-Litre Boot Capacity: Generously sized to swallow heavy camping equipment, large BBQ grills, cool boxes, and luggage without compromising passenger space.

Rugged outside, a silent sanctuary inside

While the heavy-duty suspension effortlessly smooths out corrugated tracks, wadi beds, and gravel roads, the interior remains a quiet haven. Featuring class-leading Noise, Vibration, and Harshness (NVH) insulation, the cabin isolates road chatter, allowing passengers to enjoy a premium sound system or easy conversation in total serenity.



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