



TOUCH THE FUTURE

The NEW ENERGY VEHICLE BRAND FROM CHANGAN GROUP.



G318

Dual Motor Max Power **430 hp**,
Combined Drive Range **Over 848 kms (WLTC)***,
Dual Motor SUV AWD



S07

Rear Electric Motor Max Power **235 hp**,
Combined Drive Range **Over 950 kms (WLTC)***,
Rear-Wheel Drive



S05

Rear Electric Motor Max Power **214 hp**,
Combined Drive Range **Over 1000 kms (WLTC)***,
Rear-Wheel Drive (Rear Electric Motor Only)



ضمان المصنع
٦ سنوات أو ٢٥٠,٠٠٠ كلم*
(أيهما أسبق)*

MANUFACTURING WARRANTY
6 YEARS OR 250,000 KMS*
(WHICHEVER IS EARLIER)



ضمان بطارية الطاقة
٨ سنوات أو ٢٥٠,٠٠٠ كلم*
(أيهما أسبق)*

POWER BATTERY WARRANTY
8 YEARS OR 250,000 KMS*
(WHICHEVER IS EARLIER)

*Terms and conditions apply.

[f deepaloman](#) [@ deepaloman.official](#) [www.deepaloman.com](#)

C.R. No: 1232361

**Arabian Gulf Automobiles
and Equipment LLC**

Showrooms: **Qurum 96620435, Sohar 96620475, Salalah 96629050**
Sales Centres : **Mawaleh 97888180, Nizwa 96628940, Ibri 96628930,**
Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

800 50800

Times

GOLDEN JUBILEE

OF OMAN



51

YEARS OF LEGACY

Founded 1975 · Volume 51 No. 146 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group



Instant Credit Card.
Instant Use!

Apply directly on the
Bank Muscat App



Know how



Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.
Terms and conditions apply.

GUTERRES PRAISES OMAN

Sayyid Badr conveys HM’s greetings to UN Secretary-General

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi met with António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the UN headquarters in New York.

During the meeting, Sayyid Badr conveyed the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the UN Secretary-General, along with His Majesty's wishes for success in carrying out his responsibilities and international and humanitarian efforts.

Guterres, in turn, conveyed his sincere greetings and best wishes to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people for continued progress and prosperity.

The two sides discussed ways to strengthen cooperation between Oman and the United Nations and coordinate efforts to build trust and develop sustain-

able understandings in support of regional security and peace.

The UN Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for Oman's efforts to facilitate dialogue and bring positions closer together, praising the Sultanate's approach based on wisdom and balance.

He also commended Oman's contribution to international efforts aimed at promoting the peaceful settlement of conflicts and supporting humanitarian initiatives.

The meeting also reviewed regional and international developments and ways to expand diplomatic efforts to contain crises and mitigate their repercussions, with emphasis on protecting civilians and ensuring the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those affected. **See also >A3**



IMPROVED ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

S&P affirms Oman’s ratings at ‘BBB-’ with stable outlook

MUSCAT: Standard & Poor's (S&P) affirmed Oman's long-term sovereign credit rating at 'BBB-' and short-term rating at 'A-3' with a stable outlook, citing continued fiscal consolidation measures and improved economic performance and financial and external positions.

"The stable outlook reflects our opinion that Oman's fiscal and external buffers--which include liquid government assets in excess of 40% of gross domestic product (GDP) and gross foreign currency reserves of close to 20% of GDP which will support the sovereign against adverse geopolitical developments," the international rating agency said.

S&P in its report further raised its forecast for Oman's real GDP growth to accelerate to 3.5% in 2026 from 2.3% in 2025, driven by



the impact of Middle East geopolitical uncertainty and sustained by higher oil prices and supply expansion to meet global demand for oil, gas, and byproducts.

The rating agency pointed that over the past five years, Oman has demonstrated a proactive commitment to addressing structural challenges, including budgetary

and external deficits and economic growth trajectories.

Central to this progress has been a stronger institutional framework, characterised by enhanced coordination in public finance reforms and governance improvements.

"We expect a supportive oil market and a clear trend toward

increased transparency to further bolster this momentum. The government's commitment to data disclosure--including the regular publication of quarterly GDP, fiscal positions, and international investment position, alongside active engagement in the IMF Article IV process--reflects a maturing institutional landscape," it said.

"While regional instability presents external security risks, Oman's strengthened policy foundations provide a robust framework for navigating potential volatility," the agency further added.

Oman's reform agenda continues to unfold, S&P said adding that, "Increased coordination efforts across ministries that strive to improve oversight are creating a more durable structure that will support the development goals set out in Vision 2040." **>A3**

This tour reflects the Royal keenness of His Majesty to advance growth and modernisation programmes across the country

DUQM: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik paid an inspection tour of a number of wilayats in Al Wusta and South Al Sharqiyah Governorates on Thursday.

During the tour, His Majesty closely reviewed a range of developmental, economic, social and tourism projects and programmes being implemented by the Government to meet developmental requirements and to bring about further advancement and modernisation across all fields.

The Royal motorcade set off from the Port of Duqm to the Wilayat of Mahout, then proceeded to the wilayats of Jaalan Bani Bu Ali, Jaalan Bani Bu Has-



See A4 for more pictures

cial services. Citizens rejoiced at this blessed visit. They gathered to greet His Majesty and welcome his auspicious arrival, reciting traditional folk arts and welcom-

ing chants, and beseeching the Almighty Allah to safeguard him under His care and to grant him enduring success, so that the nation may attain further progress and achievements. Accompanying His Majesty during the tour were a number of ministers and advisers. — **OMA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Oman govt continues to monitor prices



1 Developments in inflation are gaining increasing importance amid the changes taking place in the global economy, underscoring the need to continue monitoring economic indicators and assessing their impact on national economies. **>A3**

OMAN Oman to host Wind Energy Congress

2 Oman has won the rights to host the 23rd World Wind Energy Conference, marking a vital step in the renewable energy development and supporting its efforts to expand wind energy projects. **>A2**

MARKET Duqm Refinery production jumps

3 Duqm Refinery has reached approximately 110% of its design capacity, recording production of around 255,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 2026. **>B1**



CHANGAN

READY FOR EVERY ROAD

Easy to own with low monthly installments.



EMI
95*

CS35 PLUS

Trend



EMI
113*

CS55 PRO

Limited



EMI
155*

CS75 PLUS 4WD

Royal



EMI
179*

CS95 4WD

Royal



Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

800 50800

9662 8909

www.changanoman.com

Terms and conditions apply. *Easy Monthly Installment is calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 years loan tenure, Subject to credit approvals from Banks only. Applicable on vehicles purchased for personal use. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only.



COMMENTARY

Environmental Permit Requirements for High-Risk Projects under Omani Law

Environmental compliance remains central to Oman's expanding industrial and infrastructure sector. Royal Decree 114/2001, the Law on Environmental Protection and Pollution Control, sets out the legal framework for environmental permitting, impact assessment, and pollution control.

Speaking to Times of Oman, Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Zadjali, Chairman of Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm, said "the law requires an environmental permit before erection begins for any source or work area, with the Minister setting the procedures, conditions, rules, duration, and renewal terms. Any source or work area that, under principles set by the Ministry, poses an environmental risk capable of being avoided or treated must



submit a detailed impact assessment study before applying for the permit, and that study must confirm that its benefits outweigh the potential environmental damage; where such damage



cannot be avoided or remedied, licensing is barred."

"Once a source or work area is established, its owner is subject to a range of ongoing obligations under the law. They must adopt

approved technical measures and clean production techniques to reduce waste at the source. They must also submit a Ministry-approved contingency plan, reviewed periodically. Discharges must stay within set pollution standards and discharge specifications. Additionally, every work area must maintain a designated safety area to ensure that pollutant levels do not exceed permitted limits, whether from a single source or from all sources within that work area combined," he said.

He added that "any discharge that violates the law, the regulations and decisions implementing it, or the environmental permit granted, or any accident causing pollution or environmental damage, must be reported to the Ministry in writ-

ing immediately, while owners must monitor compliance, keep records, and report periodically at Minister-specified intervals."

"Violations such as unauthorized discharge or unpermitted construction carry fines of OMR 200 to OMR 2,000, increasing by ten percent daily from the fourth day after notifying the offender of the discovery of the violation, with suspension possible if the violation continues for more than one month. Separate penalties include imprisonment or a fine for certain prohibited discharges, or for failing to notify the Ministry of an environmental disaster or a violation, while false or misleading data in an environmental permit application or an application to erect a source or work area carries imprisonment not exceeding six

months, a fine not exceeding five percent of capital invested, or one of those two punishments, as well as work suspension and permit cancellation," he concluded.

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

Oman stresses cooperation for preparation against pandemic

Oman highlighted the need for sustained investment in health systems and human resources, as well as scientific research and innovation



tive diplomacy and its efforts to strengthen its role in countering hate speech and intolerance, thus contributing to the promotion of coexistence and peace.

The meeting also discussed the Alliance's work beyond 2026 and how to strengthen multilateral cooperation and support national, regional and international initiatives aligned with its objectives and mandate.

The event was attended by Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Alqutbi, Head of the Foreign Ministry's International Organisations Department, and First Secretary Dr Maysa bint Khamis Alshibli, part of Oman's Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

Times News Service

NEW YORK: The Sultanate of Oman participated in a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

The meeting was held in New York under the theme "Advancing a Multilateral and Inter-generational Approach to Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response, Guided by Equity and Solidarity".

Ambassador Dr Adnan bin Hamad Alazri, Oman's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations for Maritime Affairs, delivered Oman's statement, noting that pandemic prevention,

preparedness and response are a shared responsibility requiring sustained political commitment and effective international cooperation.

Oman's statement highlighted the importance of strengthening implementation of the International Health Regulations, developing national capacities in surveillance, early response, laboratory services and health emergency management.

It also spoke of the need to ensure sustained investment in health systems, human resources, scientific research and innovation.

Oman highlighted the importance of regional and international cooperation, the exchange of information and expertise, and stronger early-warning networks.

Oman reaffirmed its readiness

to continue working with the World Health Organization and international partners to build a more equitable, flexible and resilient global health system.

High-level meeting to defend international law.

The Sultanate of Oman participated in a high-level meeting to defend international law, held at the United Nations headquarters in New York at the joint invitation of the Republic of South Africa and Malaysia.

Oman was represented at the meeting by Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Alqutbi, Head of the Foreign Ministry's International Organisations Department.

In Oman's statement, Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed highlighted the importance of respect-

ing international law and applying it fairly, consistently and without selectivity or double standards. He also spoke of the need to strengthen the role and independence of international institutions.

He noted that the Palestinian issue represents one of the most significant tests of the credibility of the international system.

He reaffirmed Oman's long-standing position calling for an end to the Israeli occupation and the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace based on the two-state solution and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Oman spoke about the importance of dialogue, mediation and diplomacy, as well as adherence to the rule of law, in resolving disputes. It noted that sustainable

peace requires justice and that defending international law requires its principles to be applied to all, without exception.

Oman participates in UNAOC Group of Friends meeting

The Sultanate of Oman participated in a high-level meeting of the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), held at the United Nations headquarters in New York on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The meeting discussed the key achievements of the UNAOC and its future priorities, as well as its efforts to promote dialogue and understanding among cultures and religions. It also reviewed the Alliance's initiatives in preven-

Oman at Jerusalem meeting

The Sultanate of Oman participated in a joint ministerial meeting of the League of Arab States and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Jerusalem.

Oman was represented at the meeting by Khalid Albabkhi, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations in New York.

The meeting discussed developments in Jerusalem and ways to strengthen joint Arab and Islamic action to protect its legal and historical status, safeguard its Islamic and Christian holy sites, and to counter Israeli measures aimed at changing the city's character.

IN 2027

Oman wins bid to host the 23rd World Wind Energy Congress

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has won the rights to host the 23rd World Wind Energy Conference (WWEC 2027), marking a significant step in the country's renewable energy development and supporting its efforts to expand wind energy projects and diversify its energy mix.

The event will be hosted by Nama Power and Water Procurement Company (PWP) under the patronage of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, in cooperation with the World Wind Energy Association (WWEA). The conference will provide an opportunity to showcase Oman's progress in wind energy projects and high-light investment opportunities in the sector.

The conference will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, investors, developers, researchers, technology providers and renewable energy experts from around the world to discuss the future of wind energy, showcase projects and technologies, explore investment opportunities, and promote international cooperation and knowledge exchange.

Mohsin bin Hamad Al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, said Oman's hosting of WWEC 2027 reflects international confidence in the country's vision and its progress in developing the renewable energy sector, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

He noted that the Ministry is working to develop a more di-



versified and flexible energy mix, enhance energy security, and create a supportive regulatory and investment environment for the expansion of renewable energy projects.

He added that Oman's renewable energy project roadmap through 2032 includes around 19 solar and wind energy projects and project packages, comprising 13 solar projects and packages and six wind energy projects. The planned total wind energy capacity exceeds 4,000 megawatts, reflecting the scale of expansion targeted in the coming phase.

Al Hadhrami explained that the expansion goes beyond adding new electricity generation capacity to building an integrated ecosystem that attracts investment and technology, develops value chains and local content, strengthens infrastructure readiness, and develops national capabilities and expertise.

These efforts will enhance the economic value, competitiveness and long-term sustainability of the energy sector.

He further noted that hosting

the conference will provide an international platform for exchanging knowledge and expertise, facilitating technology transfer, supporting innovation, and building partnerships that contribute to accelerating the development of wind and renewable energy in Oman.

For her part, Maitha Saif Al Mahrouqi, Ambassador of Oman to the Federal Republic of Germany, welcomed the confidence placed in Oman by the World Wind Energy Association and its partners in selecting the Sultanate to host WWEC 2027.

She said the decision confirms Oman's position as a reliable partner for investment and international cooperation, supported by an established approach based on stability, dialogue and bridge-building, as well as a transparent regulatory environment and frameworks supporting the acceleration of renewable energy projects from planning to generation.

She noted that Oman has promising wind energy resources, alongside large-scale solar energy projects, supporting the develop-

ment of a diversified and flexible energy mix while enhancing national competitiveness and energy security.

The ambassador stressed that the energy transition requires international cooperation, knowledge exchange and cross-border partnerships, adding that Oman's position enables it to serve as a link between the Gulf region, East Africa, South Asia and Europe, connecting capital with opportunities and innovation with implementation.

Ahmed bin Salem Al Abri, Chief Executive Officer of Nama Power and Water Procurement Company, said Oman's successful bid to host WWEC 2027 represents international recognition of the country's progress in renewable energy and its achievements under Oman Vision 2040 and its net-zero ambitions.

He explained that PWP prepared Oman's hosting bid under the supervision of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, noting that the successful bid was supported by Oman's strategic location, attractive investment environment, advanced infrastructure and promising wind resources.

These factors, he said, position Oman to become a regional hub for developing wind energy projects and broader energy-transition initiatives. He highlighted Dhofar and Al Wusta in particular as promising areas for utility-scale wind energy projects, offering opportunities to attract international developers, technology providers and investors.

AL-SUWAIQ

Digital radio and television stations to be inaugurated

SUWAIQ: The Ministry of Information will inaugurate on Sunday the digital terrestrial radio and television transmission station in the Wilayat of Al-Suwaïq, as part of completing the project to digitise terrestrial television broadcasting and enhance digital television coverage in a number of governorates and states of the Sultanate of Oman.

Saeed bin Mohammed Al-Shuraqi, Director General of Engineering at the Ministry of Information, said that the project to digitise terrestrial television broadcasting comes in line with global developments in the field of digital terrestrial television broadcasting, explaining that the first phase of the project included the implementation of 69 television transmission stations distributed across the various governorates and states of the Sultanate of Oman.

He added that the second phase of the project came to cover a number of areas that were not covered by the service, and included the establishment of three new transmission stations in the states of Suwaïq, Sohar and Bidiyah, noting that the opening of the Suwaïq station comes within this phase.

He explained that digital terrestrial television broadcasting came as an alternative to analog television broadcasting, and is characterized by picture quality and efficient use of frequencies. The digital system allows broadcasting



four to five television channels using one transmitter and frequency, compared to the analog system which allocated a transmitter and frequency for each channel, which contributes to reducing the cost of equipment and achieving greater efficiency in the use of the frequency spectrum.

He explained that the Suwaïq station will cover the state of Suwaïq and the neighbouring regions and states, noting that the digital terrestrial television broadcasting project is one of the strategic projects of the Ministry of Information, because it provides an integrated terrestrial broadcasting system that can be controlled and managed by the Sultanate of Oman Television and the Ministry of Information, which enhances the continuity of the service and the efficiency of its operation.

The transmission power of the Al-Suwaïq station is 2 kilowatts, and it operates on a frequency of 522 MHz. -OMA

MEETINGS

Sayyid Badr meets Dr Araghchi, discusses Middle East crisis



Times News Service

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi met with Dr Abbas Araghchi, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, alongside the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

During the meeting the Ministers discussed efforts to bridge divisions in regional relations and current developments in the Middle East and the Gulf.

They highlighted the importance of continuing diplomatic engagement and contacts to develop

approaches that help build confidence and reach consensual and practical solutions to outstanding issues, while taking into account the interests of all parties and supporting security and stability in the region.

The Ministers also discussed efforts related to the safety of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and ensuring freedom of passage, in support of international trade and energy supplies.

Sayyid Badr, UNICEF Chief discuss children's welfare

Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi,



Foreign Minister, met with Catharine Russell, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

Cooperation programme for 2026-2030

The meeting reviewed the partnership between Oman and UNICEF, priorities of the cooperation programme for 2026-2030, and opportunities to exchange expertise in supporting children's development, building their capabilities and enhancing services

provided to them. The two sides also stressed the importance of partnership with private sector institutions and encouraging their active participation in humanitarian programmes and related industries.

The meeting discussed the humanitarian situation of children affected by conflicts, particularly in the Gaza Strip, Sudan, Yemen and Syria.

The sides underscored the need to support affected children, ensure safe and sustainable access to humanitarian assistance, maintain the provision of healthcare



and education, and provide the protection needed to safeguard their rights, dignity and future.

Sayyid Badr meets with U.S. President's Advisor for Arab and African Affairs

In a separate meeting, Sayyid Badr met with Massad Boulos, Senior Advisor to the US President for Arab and African Affairs.

The meeting covered a number of Arab and African issues of common interest, as well as diplomatic efforts to contain conflicts and create conditions conducive to political settlements that respect the

sovereignty and security of states and respond to peoples' aspirations for peace and stability.

The US official praised Oman's approach and its role in bringing viewpoints closer together and promoting opportunities for reconciliation and peace in the region.

The two sides also affirmed their commitment to continuing constructive efforts to strengthen Omani-American cooperation and partnership and advance their shared interests and aspirations for the benefit of the two friendly countries.

Expats may face glitch as Indian bankers plan stir

However, remittance services from Oman are not expected to be directly affected by the strike



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) in India has proposed a three-day nationwide bank strike from September 28 to 30, 2026, which is likely to cause some disruption to banking and financial services across India.

However, remittance services from Oman are not expected to be directly affected by the strike, said R. Madhusoodanan, a former SBI official and financial expert said.

"Major public sector banks and private sector banks in India will be functioning on Sunday, September 27, as directed by the Reserve Bank of India. This provides an opportunity for customers, including expatriates, to complete important banking transactions before the commencement of the strike," he added.

The additional working day has been arranged because the strike follows the September 26-27 weekend, potentially creating an extended disruption to branch-

based banking. Madhusoodanan further point out that "With internet banking, mobile banking applications and UPI services continuing to function, retail customers may not experience significant difficulties in carrying out routine digital transactions."

"ATMs are also expected to remain operational. Several banks, including SBI, have announced measures such as waiver of certain ATM usage charges during the strike period," he added.

Although remittances from Oman can be initiated as usual through exchange-houses and digital channels, technical issues, compliance-related verification or other processing requirements at the receiving bank in India could take longer than normal during the strike.

"Therefore, expatriates who have urgent financial commitments in India may consider sending their remittances early on Sunday, September 27, to minimise the possibility of delays," he further said.

Another factor that could contribute to delays is the banking calendar immediately after the strike.

Banks are expected to reopen on October 1, while October 2 is a bank holiday on account of Gandhi Jayanti. In addition, September 30 marks the half-yearly closing of bank accounts, which could result in additional operational pressure and increased customer transactions.

"Consequently, there could be a considerable rush when banks reopen after the strike, particularly because of the combination of the strike, the subsequent holiday and half-yearly closing-related work," Madhusoodanan said.

"While digital banking channels are expected to continue functioning, customers should not wait until the last minute for urgent transactions. Expatriates in Oman may therefore consider completing important remittances and other banking transactions on Sunday itself, as a precautionary measure," he added.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Oman govt continues to monitor prices, markets

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Developments in inflation are gaining increasing importance amid the transformations taking place in the global economy, underscoring the need to continue monitoring economic indicators and assessing their impact on national economies.

Dr. Nasser bin Rashid Al Maawali, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy, said that Oman's average inflation rate stood at around 2.9% from January to August 2026, compared with approximately 4.7% globally, according to International Monetary Fund (IMF) projections.

In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), Al Maawali said inflation in the global economy has become increasingly linked to changes in international markets amid growing economic interconnectedness, intertwined

supply chains, and movements in trade and investment. These factors cause the impact of global developments to extend to countries and sectors to varying degrees.

He noted that geopolitical developments and changes affecting supply chains in the region have contributed to influencing transportation and supply costs, as well as the prices of a number of goods and services globally. Given its integration with international markets, the Omani economy is affected by these developments to varying degrees.

Al Maawali affirmed that the government continues to monitor price movements, markets and supply chains and take appropriate policies and measures to help maintain market stability, ensure the availability of goods and mitigate the impact of external fluctuations on the national economy, thereby supporting social stabil-

ity and sustainable growth.

He explained that the Ministry of Economy, in coordination with relevant authorities and partners, is working to strengthen Oman's economic and institutional capabilities and enhance the resilience of the national economy and its ability to respond to external developments and mitigate their effects, while maintaining sustainable growth.

Al Maawali stressed that addressing inflation forms part of an integrated economic and social approach aligned with the State's fiscal and monetary policies. The approach takes into account the balance between price stability and sustainable growth, supports private-sector activity, and strengthens the resilience of supply chains while diversifying their sources to support sustainable economic and social development.

GDP

Target for 10th plan achieved

<FROM A1 Many of the targets set out in the 10th development plan for 2021-2025 have been nearly achieved, with total investment reaching 25.5% of GDP relative to a 26.5% target, for instance. Other measures have been surpassed, with (for example) non-oil sector growth at 3.9% relative to a goal of 3.2%.

"Shifting to the 11th development plan for 2026-2030, we anticipate Oman will continue to focus on activating capital market depth, with the Muscat Stock Exchange current market cap at about 37% of GDP and further enhancing regulation for the finan-

cial sector," the rating agency said.

Sound fiscal and current account balances will support the government's debt and external positions through 2029 S&P said adding that, "Oman's fiscal and external metrics are benefiting from the rise in hydrocarbon prices, oil output, and supply-chain relocation.

Deleveraging initiatives have helped reduce fiscal risks tied to government-related entities. We expect Oman will maintain its currency peg, supported by its accumulated government external assets of about 35% of GDP."

S&P further forecasts that the government will deliver a fiscal

surplus of 4.8% of GDP in 2026. This largely reflects our prevailing Brent oil assumption of \$95 per barrel for the remainder of 2026 and is a revision to our previous forecast for 2025 of a minor deficit of 0.7% of GDP.

"Similarly, with our assumption that the Brent oil price will remain elevated, at \$80/bbl in 2027, we project a surplus of 2.2% of GDP, with the fiscal position nearly balanced over 2028-2029, reflecting a decline in oil prices. We expect non-oil revenue to increase over the coming four years, supported by improved collection efforts in addition to increased customs and duties in line with growth."



MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Drive your Ambition

**SEASONS CHANGE
BENEFITS DON'T**

**GREAT VALUE OFFERS
ONLY AT MITSUBISHI**



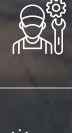
EXCITING BENEFITS



**0% INTEREST
UP TO 24 MONTHS***



**FREE INSURANCE &
REGISTRATION***



**FREE SERVICE UP TO
4 YEARS/50,000 KMS***



**6-YEAR UNLIMITED
MILEAGE WARRANTY &
ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE**



**FREE LLUMAR
WINDOW TINT***

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL / WHATSAPP 24 500 500

WWW.MITSUBISHI-MOTORS.COM.OM

*Terms and Conditions apply | Vehicle images are used for illustrative purposes only | Offer valid from 20th September 2026 to 31st October 2026.



الشركة العامة للسيارات
General Automotive Company
(A part of The Zuhair Corporation)



HM the Sultan tours Al Wusta, South Al Sharqiyah governorates





JCDECAUX OMAN BRINGS AMOUAGE'S AMBITIOUS VISION TO LIFE AT MUSCAT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



Technical Expertise and Partnership with Oman Airoptrts Deliver an Integrated Brand Experience at Oman's Gateway

JCDecaux, the number one outdoor advertising company worldwide, through JCDecaux Oman, has delivered a landmark collaboration with Amouage, the Omani High Perfumery House, in partnership with Oman Airports. The project brings an immersive, large-scale brand presence to Muscat International Airport, combining JCDecaux's technical expertise, operational capabilities and long-standing partnership with Oman Airports.

THE POWER OF PLACE Muscat International Airport welcomes millions of international travelers each year, including business leaders, heads of state and luxury travelers. For JCDecaux Oman, the airport provides a powerful environment for brands to engage international audiences through carefully integrated out-of-home experiences. Marco Parsiegla, Amouage CEO said, "Travel retail has become an increasingly important point of discovery for Amouage as the House continues to deepen its presence across key international markets. Our approach, however, remains highly selective. We look for locations where the context, the audience and the quality of expression are right for the House."

He went on to add, "Muscat International Airport holds a distinct place within that strategy. It brings an international travelling audience to Oman, the country from which Amouage draws so much of its identity, craftsmanship and creative language. That gives us the opportunity to introduce the House in a setting where its Omani origin has particular relevance, while engaging clients who increasingly encounter Amouage as a global name in High Perfumery. The scale of this project takes that idea further, creating an encounter with the House that is unusually complete for an airport environment. It is a strong example of what travel retail can become when the setting, the creative ambition and the execution are all considered with the same level of care."

A NEW LEVEL OF PRESENCE AT THE GATEWAY

The entrance and exit doors of Muscat International Airport now feature exclusive Amouage branding inspired by the material language of rammed earth and the natural landscape of Oman. In a move rarely seen in airport advertising, JCDecaux Oman, through its partnership with Oman Airports, integrated the branding directly into these key airport touchpoints, extending Amouage's presence beyond conventional media formats and into the physical passenger journey itself. "This first-of-its-kind project gave our teams the opportunity to push beyond conventional out-of-home formats and



reimagine how a brand can become part of the airport environment itself," said Bechir Chehab, Managing Director of JCDecaux Oman. "Working closely with Amouage and Oman Airports, we combined exclusive media opportunities with significant technical and operational expertise, delivered globally. The scale and complexity of the project demanded meticulous planning, close coordination and an uncompromising attention to detail at every stage. We are extremely proud to see such an ambitious project come to life here in Oman. It reflects what can be achieved when strong partnerships, creative ambition and technical expertise come together. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the management of Oman Airports and to Amouage for their trust and support throughout this journey."

MONUMENTAL DESIGN, ENGINEERED GRANDEUR

At the visual and technical core of the activation are two monumental hanging installations, each weighing 1,900 kg and suspended above the terminal floor. Their delivery required rigorous structural calculations, bespoke engineering solutions and close coordination with Oman Airports and JCDecaux Oman's technical teams to ensure safety and precision. "From the first sketches to the final installation, this project has been a true operational marathon," said Mohammed AlMandhari, Operations Manager at JCDecaux Oman. "Our role was to turn an ambitious vision into a safely delivered reality, coordinating closely with Oman Airports, our supplier and technical teams. Together with our HSE officer, we ensured that each phase met the highest safety standards while keeping ESG compliance at the core of our execution."

DELIVERING THE EXTRAORDINARY

As the exclusive commercial partner of Oman Airports, JCDecaux Oman led the delivery across the airport environment, from securing the exclusive branding of the entrance and exit doors to engineering and installing the hanging structures and coordinating premium assets throughout the terminal. The project demonstrates how JCDecaux Oman's infrastructure, operational expertise and partnership model can translate an ambitious creative vision into a fully integrated airport experience. Haitham Nasser Al Thais, Acting CEO of Oman Airports, said: "Muscat International Airport serves as the first gateway to the Sultanate of Oman for millions of travelers from around the world. From this perspective, we are committed to ensuring that the passenger experience reflects the Sultanate's authentic identity and renewed ambition. This collaboration with Amouage and JCDecaux Oman demonstrates how airport spaces can be used in innovative ways to enrich the passenger experience, while at



the same time showcasing the presence of an Omani luxury brand that has successfully carried the name of Oman to global markets."

A NEW LANGUAGE FOR LUXURY OUT-OF-HOME

The Amouage airport activation reflects how leading brands can engage audiences in physical space through more integrated forms of out-of-home. For JCDecaux Oman, the collaboration demonstrates how exclusive branding and monumental design can become part of the passenger journey at Muscat International Airport, delivered in close partnership with Oman Airports. "Having worked across markets worldwide, I believe the most impactful projects are those that combine global expertise with a deep understanding of the local environment," said Martin Sabbagh, CEO of JCDecaux Middle East and Africa. "The transformation at Muscat International Airport is a compelling example of this global approach, bringing together JCDecaux's international experience, our strong partnership with Oman Airports and Amouage's distinctive identity to create an experience that is both globally relevant and deeply rooted in Oman. This achievement reflects the collaboration, trust and meticulous attention to detail of our partners at Oman Airports and Amouage, as well as the dedication of the JCDecaux teams and everyone involved. We are proud to have delivered a project of such ambition and quality in Oman."

ABOUT AMOUAGE

Amouage is an Omani High Perfumery House renowned for creating some of the most finely crafted perfumes in the world. Founded in the Sultanate of Oman in 1983 to be "The Gift of Kings", the House has re-defined the Arabian art of perfumery and garnered a global reputation for bringing innovative modernity and true artistry to all its creations.

Masterfully paying tribute to its heritage, Amouage is a unique fusion of East meets West that defines avant-garde opulence. Today, it expresses the contemporary majesty of Oman, a historic trading centre for frankincense around the globe, with arresting and alluring collections that speak to a sophisticated, confident, and well-travelled discerning clientele who seek something compellingly precious, extraordinary and personal, every day.

Amouage creations have charmed a global audience and are now available in close to 100 countries around the world. The House's international presence encompasses 32 standalone boutiques in Oman, the UAE, the US, China and Malaysia as well as a highly selective network of approximately 1,500 of the world's finest department stores, perfumeries, and airports.

For press enquiries, please contact: press@amouage.com

Oman at GCC-India meeting

NEW YORK: Oman participated in a joint ministerial meeting between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Republic of India, held on the sidelines of the 81st session of the UNGA.

The meeting discussed cooperation between the GCC states and India, as well as ways to develop their partnership across fields of mutual interest. The Ministers also exchanged views on key regional and international issues, and on the importance



of supporting efforts to enhance security and stability. Oman was represented at the meeting by Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed

bin Abdullah Alqatbi, Head of the International Organisations Department at the Foreign Ministry, along with other officials.

IN TUNIS

Six awards show quality of media production

Times News Service

MUSCAT:The Ministry of Information's achievement of six awards in the main competitions of the 26th Arab Radio and Television Festival in Tunis reflects sustained efforts to advance the Omani media message. It also demonstrates that these accolades are the result of a process involving multiple stages of media production.

The achievement further highlights the breadth of production at the Ministry of Information and the diversity of its formats and content, as well as the integration of efforts and the cohesion of qualified media professionals. It reflects their experience and capabilities in creativity, planning, developing ideas, writing, preparation, production, and execution, ultimately resulting in impactful media content capable of competing at regional and international media events.

Mohammed bin Said Al Balushi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, affirmed that the Ministry, represented by Oman Radio and Television and the News Center, receiving six awards at the Arab Radio and Television Festival represents a qualitative shift in the level of Omani media participation.

He noted that winning at this prestigious festival, which brings together Arab media institutions with extensive experience, reflects the level of development taking place in Omani media. He added that the awards reflect the efforts made to develop radio, television, and news content and raise it to a level capable of competing regionally and internationally.

They also demonstrate the competence and professionalism of those involved in preparing, presenting, directing, and producing news reports.

He pointed out that the results underscore the importance of investing in Omani media talent through the training and professional development provided by the Media Training Centre, as well as through continued support and encouragement for media professionals.



INDIAN SCHOOL NIZWA P B No. 598, P C 611, Thymasa, Nizwa Sultanate of Oman

STAFF RECRUITMENT 2026-2027

Indian School Nizwa, a leading CBSE school in Sultanate of Oman is inviting applications from dynamic, qualified and experienced teaching staff for the following positions.

The candidate should possess strong communication skills in English and class room management skills. (Priority will be given to local candidates)

Subject/ Grade	Qualification	Minimum Experience	No. of vacancies
Computer Science (PRT)	MCA/BCA/B.Tech/ M.Tech/M.Sc./B.Sc. in Computer Science,	3 Years of experience in teaching Computer Science. CBSE curriculum experience is preferable.	One
Social Science (PRT)	B.Ed./M.Ed. and BA/MA in History/Geography,	3 Years of experience in teaching Social Science. CBSE curriculum experience is preferable.	One
Hindi (PRT)	B.Ed./M.Ed. in Hindi and BA/MA in Hindi.	3 Years of experience in teaching Hindi. CBSE curriculum experience is preferable.	One
Kindergarten Teacher (KGT)	Diploma/ Certificate in Nursery Teacher Training (NTT) / Montessori Teacher Training/ Diploma in early childhood care& education (ECEC)	3 Years of teaching experience in Kindergarten.	Two
Dance (PRT)	Diploma/Degree/Masters in Dance from a recognized institution,	3 years of experience in teaching dance in a reputed School.	One
English (PRT)	B.Ed./M.Ed. in English and BA/MA in English.	3 Years of experience in teaching English. CBSE curriculum experience is preferable.	One

Pay and other emoluments are competitive and as per the rules of the school. "Candidates with IELTS Certification will be given preference" **How to Apply:** Login to your Google Account and fill the Google Form. <https://forms.gle/GBZw6ZnXoTSjD0t8> Form should be submitted within 10 days from the date of the advertisement. We look forward to hearing from dedicated professionals who are passionate about education.



INDIAN SCHOOL NIZWA P B No. 598, P C 611, Thymasa, Nizwa Sultanate of Oman

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited from potential vendors / agencies / contractors / companies / individuals for providing the following services for the school.

1. AMC -Cleaning contract for school building, playground and gardening.
2. AMC -Pest Control
3. AMC -Sewage water removal (per gallon)
(Note:A tender fee R.O. 5 (Five) non-refundable will be applicable for the above 1 to 3 together)
4. AMC -Electrical & plumbing.
5. AMC -Air Conditioners & Cooling Devices.
(Note:A tender fee R.O. 5 (Five) non-refundable will be applicable for the above 4 and 5 together)
6. Staff Medical Insurance.
7. Accident, fire, robbery & property insurance.
8. Workmen compensation.
9. Students Group and personal Accident Insurance.
10. Staff Group Life Insurance
(Note:A tender fee R.O. 5 (Five) non-refundable will be applicable for the above 6 to 10 together)
11. Text Books Supply for the A.Y 2027-28
12. Printed Notebooks Supply for the A.Y 2027-28
13. AMC-Fire Fighting & Fire Alarm
(Note:A tender fee R.O. 5 (Five) non-refundable will be applicable for the above 11 to 13)

The completed tender/s shall be submitted (in separate sealed envelopes) directly in the school office during school working hours (latest by 2.30 pm). The sealed tenders may also be sent via couriers/speed post to: **The Principal, Indian School Nizwa, PB No. 598, PC – 611, Thymasa, Nizwa, Sultanate of Oman.**

The respective tenders shall clearly describe the "name of the service quoted for" on each envelop by the bidding party.

The last date of submission of the tenders is within **15 days** from the date of this advertisement.

For more details, contact 9941 3124 (Principal), 91313515 and 78615229.



NOTICE AND INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of OQ BASE INDUSTRIES SFZ SAOG (the "Company") has the pleasure to invite the shareholders to attend the Ordinary General Meeting, which will be held on Thursday at 04:00 pm on 15/10/2026, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.om). If the quorum requirement for holding the Annual General Meeting is not fulfilled, a second Ordinary General Meeting General Meeting shall be held on Sunday at 04:00 pm on 18/10/2026, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.om) to discuss the following agenda:

Ordinary General Meeting Agendas:

1. To consider and approve proposed distribution of cash dividends to the shareholder registered in the Company's shareholders' register as at the date of the ordinary general meeting, amounting (5.2) Baisas per share, in respect of the first half of the financial year ending 31 December 2026, based on the Company's audited financial statements for the first half of the financial year 2026.
2. To consider and approve the Board of Director's proposal to distribute performance linked dividends to the shareholder registered in the Company's shareholders' register as at the date of the ordinary general meeting, amounting (2.6) Baisas per share, in respect of the first half of the financial year ending 31 December 2026, based on the Company's audited financial statements for the first half of the financial year 2026.

According to the Company's Articles of Association and the controls for holding General Meetings using modern technology issued by the capital market authority we would like to draw your attention to the following:

1. Legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the General Meeting and vote on its behalf through technical means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in MCDCC.
2. Voting on any of the agenda items begins no more than three days before the date of the General Meeting until the voting process ends on the day of the General Meeting. If the shareholder's shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be canceled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the General Meeting.

For further information please contact on telephone No 91363624 or email: legal@oqbi.om

Chairman	Legal Advisor	External Auditor
Saleh Omeir Nasser Al Mahturi	AIMamary And Alabri Advocates Legal	Ernst & Young

Eman Al Zakwani Wins Industry Leader of the Year – Transformational Excellence Award



Eman Al Zakwani, Head of Corporate Performance within the Enterprise Performance function at Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), was felicitated with the ‘The Origin Industry Leader of the Year – Transformational Excellence Award’ at The Origin – Women Forum & Awards 2026. The awards presentation was held at JW Marriott Hotel Muscat, bringing together women leaders, professionals, entrepreneurs and changemakers from across Oman and the region. A seasoned Omani professional, Eman has built her career around organisational performance, knowledge management and business transformation. Her professional journey at PDO reflects a strong focus on enabling organisations and people to perform more effectively while supporting a culture of continuous improvement, knowledge sharing and sustainable value creation. In her current role as Head of Corporate Performance, Eman contributes to strengthening enterprise performance and supporting the organisation’s broader strategic objectives. Her work represents the importance of translating strategy into measurable performance, aligning organisational priorities and creating an environment where transformation can deliver meaningful and lasting results.



Her recognition as Industry Leader of the Year – Transformational Excellence celebrates her contribution to driving performance and transformation within one of Oman’s most significant organisations. It also reflects the growing influence of Omani women in strategic and enterprise-level leadership positions that are helping shape the future of business and industry in the Sultanate. Eman also contributed to The Origin 2026 as a panellist in “Beyond Expectations: Women at the Forefront of Progress,” sharing the stage with accomplished women leaders to explore leadership, transformation and the evolving role of women in driving progress across industries. The Origin Awards 2026 are instituted by Times of Oman, in collaboration with Muscat Media Group, Gulf Leaders Circle and TEvents. The awards recognise exceptional women, organisations and initiatives making a meaningful impact across industries and communities, while advancing leadership, empowerment, inclusion and progress.

For more information, contact: 78471944/97221630

TEMPORARY

Road closure

MUSCAT: Muscat Municipality, in coordination with the Royal Oman Police, has announced the temporary closure of the road entrance leading to Sultan Qaboos Street from Toyota showroom in Mawaleh and Mawaleh City Centre. The closure will affect motorists coming from South Al Mawaleh during the morning peak period from Sunday (Sept. 27).

SHEIKH AHMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTUUM

HH the Honourable Lady offers condolences

DUBAI: Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman, offered condolences on the death of Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum at Zabeel Palace in Dubai, United Arab Emirates this evening. Upon her arrival at the funeral Majlis, HH the Honourable Lady was received by HH Sheikha Hind bint Maktoum Al Maktoum, Spouse of the Vice President and



Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, as well as UAE female dignitaries

and woman officials. HH the Honourable Lady voiced her sincere condolences and solace to the deceased’s family over this great loss, praying to Allah the Almighty to bestow His mercy upon the deceased, rest his soul in Heavens and grant Al Maktoum family patience and fortitude to bear the loss. While offering the condolences, HH The Honourable Lady was accompanied by a number of female dignitaries and woman officials. -ONA

IN SALALAH

Conference on kidney diseases and transplantation concludes

SALALAH: The Fourth International Conference on Kidney Diseases and Transplantation, was organised by the Omani Society for Kidney Diseases and Transplantation in cooperation with the Directorate General of Health Services in Dhofar Governorate.

Strengthening prevention
The conference recommended strengthening prevention and early detection programmes for kidney diseases and employing modern technologies in monitoring patients and improving the quality of health care.

The conference concluded on Saturday was held at the Millennium Hotel in Salalah. It was attended by doctors, experts, researchers and specialists from within the Sultanate of Oman, along with 15 countries around the world. The conference also called for developing the skills of health personnel, supporting scientific research and joint studies, and encouraging organ donation and kidney transplantation. The conference emphasised the importance of continuing to organise specialised scientific conferences to promote the exchange of experiences and build partnerships between health and academic institutions, which contributes to the development of kidney disease and transplantation services and improves the quality of life of patients. -ONA

4TH EDITION



BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2026

26th OCTOBER 2026
JW MARRIOTT HOTEL MUSCAT

Marking its 4th edition, the **Times Business Leadership Summit** brings together senior government officials, business owners, C-level executives, SMEs and industry experts. Under the theme **Business Leadership in an Era of Unprecedented Change**, the Summit will examine how organisations can navigate a shifting geopolitical and economic landscape, build resilience, adapt strategies and turn emerging challenges into opportunities for sustainable growth.

TIMES BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Celebrating exceptional achievers in Oman’s business landscape, the Times Business Leadership Awards recognise outstanding individuals and companies.

Award Categories:

- Business Leader of the Year
- Entrepreneur of the Year
- Young Business Leader of the Year
- Woman Business Leader of the Year

- Lifetime Achievement Award
- SME of the Year
- Company of the Year...and more



FOR AWARDS, PARTNERSHIPS AND SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES, CONTACT:

Syed Amir Saleem: syed.amir@tevents.om | +968 78471944

Sanjeev Rana: sanjeev@tevents.om | +968 97221630

INDUSTRY PARTNER



MOBILITY PARTNER



ORGANIZED BY



MEDIA PARTNER



MANAGED BY



*AI generated images

India calls for greater representation for Global South, urgent UNSC reform

India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri called for collective efforts to enable the Global South to move "from being rule-takers to rule-shapers"

NEW YORK: India called for greater voice and representation for developing countries and stressed the need for urgent UN

Security Council (UNSC) reform as Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri delivered India's national statement at the 50th Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 during the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The meeting was held on the theme "The Global South and the Future of Multilateralism" on Saturday.

According to a post on X by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, New York, Misri highlighted the continued relevance of the G77 in advancing "people-centric and development-oriented multilateralism" and underscored the urgency of UNSC reform to ensure greater voice and representation for developing countries.

Misri also called for collective efforts to enable the Global South



to move "from being rule-takers to rule-shapers".

The Group of 77, according to its official website, is the largest intergovernmental organisation of developing countries in the United Nations. It provides a platform for countries of the Global South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests, enhance their joint negotiating capacity on major international economic issues within the UN system and promote South-South cooperation for development.

The G77 was established on

June 15, 1964, by 77 developing countries that signed the Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Developing Countries at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva.

Although the grouping initially consisted of 77 countries, its membership has since expanded to 134 countries. The original name, however, has been retained because of its historical significance.

The group's institutional structure developed gradually following its first Ministerial Meeting, held in Algiers from October 10 to 25, 1967, which adopted the Charter of Algiers. The G77 subsequently developed chapters with liaison offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Paris, Rome and Vienna, while the Group of 24 operates in Washington, D.C., in connection with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

The G77 functions through chapters with broadly similar arrangements concerning membership, decision-making and working methods. A chairman acts as the spokesperson and coordinates the group's actions in each chapter.

The chairmanship rotates on a regional basis among Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean and is held for one year in the different chapters. For 2026, the Oriental Republic of Uruguay holds the chairmanship of the G77 in New York.

The Annual Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs is convened at the beginning of the regular session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The grouping also convenes sectoral ministerial meetings in areas of cooperation and development and special ministerial meetings when required. —ANI

BNP MEDIA CELL

Bangladesh, US sign agreement on peaceful uses of nuclear energy

DHAKA: Bangladesh and the United States have signed an agreement on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the BNP media cell said on Saturday.

"The agreement was signed by Rehan Asad, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Science and Technology, on behalf of Bangladesh, and Jacob Helberg, Secretary, on behalf of the United States", the BNP media cell said in a post on Facebook.



"It is worth noting that the initiative for cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy was first undertaken in 1981 during the regime of the martyred President Ziaur Rahman. Today's agreement between Bangladesh and the United States was signed as a continuation of that effort", it added, without elaborating.

However, for Bangladesh's nuclear power plant, the Uranium fuel for Unit 2 of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant was supposed to arrive Thursday. But it hasn't arrived yet because the airspace is not clear.

"We had completed all the preparations at the airport and were waiting, but the liaison officer from Rosatom told us that the airspace was not clear. So we couldn't send it. It may need to be rescheduled", Sheikh Mohammed Tauhidul Islam, Joint Secretary to the Bangladesh Science and Technology Ministry, told ANI over the phone.

Officials were not able to say which country had blocked the airspace.

The nuclear power plant is being built with support from Russia's Rosatom. To ascertain the reason behind the delay, ANI sent an email to a Rosatom representative. However, there has been no response so far.

The Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, Bangladesh's first nuclear power facility, is being constructed in Rooppur village, located along the banks of the Padma River in Pakshi Union, Ishwardi Upazila, Pabna District, with technical assistance from the Russian Federation's State Atomic Energy Corporation (Rosatom) and under the oversight of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission.

The project involves the construction of two third-generation VVER-1200 reactor units, which will collectively generate 2,400 megawatts of baseload electricity.

Bangladesh officially ushered in the nuclear age as the initial shipment of low-enriched uranium fuel for Unit 1 of the 2,400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) arrived safely from Russia. Manufactured by Rosatom's Novosibirsk Chemical Concentrates Plant, the 164 fresh fuel assemblies were flown directly from Russia into Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport aboard a heavy-lift Russian cargo aircraft under strict international safeguards.

From the capital, the radiation-shielded containers were transported along a heavily fortified, 300-kilometre "green corridor" guarded by the Bangladesh Army and law enforcement agencies to the plant site in Ishwardi, Pabna, where an official handover ceremony was held in October 2023. —ANI

TRANSPORT MINISTRY

Death toll rises to 17 in plane crash in western DR Congo

KINSHASA: The death toll from Friday's plane crash near Kenge, capital of Kwango Province in western Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), has risen to 17, the country's transport ministry said on Saturday.

The Let L-410 UVP Turbolet aircraft, operated by TRACEP Congo Aviation, crashed Friday afternoon near Kenge, according to local authorities.

Kwango Vice Governor Remy Saki said the plane had circled over Kenge several times while looking for a place to land before crashing into a residential compound and catching fire. No

casualties were reported on the ground.

The transport ministry said in a statement that all 17 people aboard, 13 passengers and four crew members, were killed in the crash. Several military personnel, including senior military justice officials, were among the victims.

Following the accident, the ministry ordered the immediate suspension of TRACEP Congo Aviation's air operator certificate, grounding the company's aircraft nationwide pending the outcome of an investigation. The cause of the crash remains under investigation. —Xinhua

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.

For partnerships, table bookings or awards, contact:
Syed Amir Saleem: syed.amir@tevents.om | +968 78471944
Sanjeev Rana: sanjeev@tevents.om | +968 97221630
Shamik Rao: shamik.rao@tevents.om | +968 79333149

Strategic Partners: OQ8, ahlibank, worley
Support Partners: Jeep, Minara, Leaders Circle
Organized By: Gulf Leaders Circle
Media Partner: Times of Oman
Managed By: [Logo]

SPORTS

ASIAN GAMES

Chinese cultural elements shine in artistic swimming on opening day

NAGOYA: China made a strong start to the artistic swimming competition at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Saturday, ranking first in both the duet technical routine and mixed team acrobatic routine on the opening day.

The artistic swimming competition at the Games features two events -- duet and team. The former consists of technical and free routines, while the latter comprises acrobatic, technical and free routines. In the duet technical routine, China's Lin Yanjun and Xu Huiyan performed "Warriors of moon shadow," incorporating elements of Chinese martial arts into their routine. The pair brought the spirit of martial arts to the water, performing sharp kicks and dynamic movements in sync with the music. They scored 317.5108 points to take the lead, ahead of Ja-



pan's Moe Higa and Tomoka Sato on 309.8432 points.

"We performed quite steadily today and showed what we have

practiced in training," Xu said after the event. "We hope to complete all the declared difficulty elements in the free routine and present what

we want to express to everyone."

In the mixed team acrobatic routine, China performed "Soul of the Terracotta Army," a routine

that previously won gold at the World Aquatics Artistic Swimming World Cup Super Final and the swimming worlds.

Dressed in armor-inspired costumes, the Chinese squad portrayed Terracotta Warriors in the water, showcasing a distinctive blend of strength and grace. They executed the routine smoothly to score 246.0977 points and rank first, while Japan finished second with 234.5992 points.

"Overall, we are quite satisfied with our performance today," said Chinese team captain Chang Hao. "The acrobatic routine is inherently full of uncertainty and risk. Unexpected situations and mistakes can also occur in training. Today's performance was probably our best-quality execution of this routine in recent times, so we brought our best form to the competition."

Head coach Zhang Xiaohuan also praised the team's performance. "The athletes performed well overall today. This was also the best I have seen them perform this routine," she said.

Zhang said that the new rules in artistic swimming have increased the uncertainty of competition, making it more important for China to focus on its own performance. "First of all, we need to execute our technical elements well. Only by doing our best, completing all the declared difficulty elements and then competing with our opponents can we do justice to all the effort and hard work we have put into our preparations," she added.

On Sunday, the duet event will award its gold medal after the free routine, while the team competition will feature the technical routine. -Xinhua

FOR ENGLAND

Jos Buttler achieves historic limited-overs batting milestone



LEEDS: England wicketkeeper-batter Jos Buttler made history at Leeds, as he became the first batter from his country to reach an aggregate of over 10,000 runs across both ODIs and T20Is combined, further proving his case as Three Lions' best limited-overs cricket batter ever.

During the second ODI against England, before retiring hurt due to an injury, Buttler provided fans with a plenty of entertainment in a run-chase of 322 runs, which looked easy at one point before Lankan death bowlers pulled things back. Buttler produced a hard-hitting 69 in 49 balls, with five fours and five sixes at a strike rate of 140.82.

Now in 204 ODIs and 176 innings, Buttler has scored 5,678 runs at an average of 39.15 and a strike rate of 115.54, with 11 centuries and 30 fifties and a best score of 162*. He is England's third-highest ODI run-getter. In T20Is, where he leads England's charts, Buttler has made 4,384 runs in 163 matches and 150 innings at an average of 34.79 with a strike rate of 150.13, including two centuries and 30 fifties.

Across his 367 white-ball outings and 326 innings, Buttler has managed 10,062 runs at an average of 37.12, including 13 centuries and 60 fifties, with a best score of 162*.

Including his 2,907 runs in 57 Tests, including two centuries and 18 fifties, Buttler has scored 12,969 runs in 424 matches and 426 innings at an average of 35.82, with a strike rate of 98.25, including 15 centuries and 78 fifties.

A scintillating century from Kusal Mendis and some sensational death-overs bowling helped Sri Lanka edge past England by 16 runs in a high-scoring second ODI at Leeds.

With this win, the series of three-match series stands level at 1-1.

Sri Lanka won the toss and opted to bat first. Pathum Nissanka (25 in 33 balls, with three fours and a six) had a 45-run opening stand with Kamindu Mendis, who went on to score a well-compiled 54 in 65 balls, including four boundaries and three sixes.

Kamindu later had a 137-run partnership for the second wicket with Kusal (121 in 100 balls, with 14 fours and three sixes). With his seventh ODI century, Kusal also reached the 5,000-run mark in ODIs. In 158 ODIs, he has made 5,125 runs in 154 innings at an average of 36.34, with seven centuries and 36 fifties.

Knocks from Pavan Rathnayake (48 in 39 balls, with two fours and a six) and Janith Liyanage (32 in 26 balls, with four boundaries) helped SL reach 321/6 in 50 overs, with Gus Atkinson (2/54) and Rehan Ahmed (2/48) getting two wickets each. Jofra Archer also managed one wicket.

England was off to a fiery start, with openers Tom Banton (73 in 62 balls, with seven fours and three sixes) and Ben Duckett (67 in 63 balls, with nine fours) putting up a 143-run opening stand. From there, England slipped to 157/3. Joe Root (15) and Jos Buttler took England past 200-run mark with a 46-run stand.

Buttler (69 in 49 balls, with five fours and five sixes) and Will Jacks (52 in 61 balls, with four boundaries and two sixes) kept the fight alive for England. But some serious death bowling from Dilshan Madushanka (2/54) and Eshan Malinga (2/50) left England at 305/9 in 50 overs. Dunith Welalage (3/49) was the pick of the bowlers for Sri Lanka. -ANI

Omani athletes clinch silver and bronze medals in the men's 100-metre



The two medals add to Oman's record at the Asian Games, taking its athletics haul to seven medals

NAGOYA: Omani sprinters Ali Al-Balushi and Mulham Al-Balushi won the silver and bronze medals, respectively, in the men's 100-metre final at the 20th Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan, adding a new achievement to Oman's sporting record.

Ali Al-Balushi secured the silver medal after finishing second in 10.04 seconds, while Mulham Al-Balushi took bronze with a time of 10.11 seconds. Thailand's Puripol Bunson won the gold medal after clocking 9.90 seconds.

Mulham Al-Balushi reached the final after finishing second in the qualifiers in 10.13 seconds, behind Bunson, who recorded 9.91 seconds. Ali Al-Balushi advanced to the semi-finals after topping his qualifying group in 10.01 seconds, ahead of China's Zheng Qi, who finished in 10.18 seconds.

The final brought together nine runners, including the two Omani athletes, Thailand's Puripol Bunson, South Korea's Daniel Pewisa and Goeljin Noamadi, China's Cheng Chi and Malaysia's Muhammad Muhammad.

The athletics competitions were held at Paloma Mizuho Stadium, which drew large crowds of Japanese spectators and supporters from across East and Southeast Asia, creating an enthusiastic atmosphere during the races and medal ceremony.

The two medals add to Oman's record at the Asian Games, taking its athletics achievements to seven medals. Oman's athletics medal journey began at the 1986 Seoul Games, when Mohammed bin Amer Al-Malki won bronze in the 400-metre race. He later claimed gold in the same event at the 1990 Beijing Games.

Oman's 4x100-metre relay team won bronze at the 1998 Bangkok Games, while Barakat Al-Harthi secured bronze in the 100-metre race at the 2010



Guangzhou Games, becoming the first Omani athlete to win a medal in the event. At the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, Hussein Al-Farsi won bronze in the 800-metre race, while sailors Musab Al-Hadi and Waleed Al-Kindi claimed silver. -ONA

2026 QUARTER-FINAL CLASH

India men's cricket team arrives in Nagoya, set to face Afghanistan in Asian Games quarterfinal

AICHI-NAGOYA: The Indian men's cricket team arrived in Nagoya on Saturday ahead of their Asian Games 2026 quarter-final clash against Afghanistan, with the Shreyas Iyer-led side beginning its campaign as it looks to defend the gold medal won at the previous edition in Hangzhou.

India will face Afghanistan in the quarter-final on Monday, September 28, with the match scheduled to begin at 10:30 am IST.

The Indian squad features several established international players, with T20 captain Iyer leading the side. The team also



includes Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (WK), Ishan Kishan (WK), Shivam Dube, Tilak Varma (VC), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Varun

Chakaravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Yash Thakur.

Former India cricketer VVS Laxman is the head coach of the

team for the Asian Games campaign. India are entering the competition with the aim of retaining the gold medal they won in Hangzhou in 2023.

On that occasion, India defeated Afghanistan for the gold after the final was washed out, with the higher-seeded Indian side awarded the title. The team was led by Ruturaj Gaikwad.

The men's cricket competition at the Aichi-Nagoya Games has entered the knockout stage following the completion of the first round.

Afghanistan and Nepal qualified for the quarter-finals from Group

A after Japan's match against Nepal was abandoned due to rain. Nepal topped the group, while Japan were eliminated from the competition. Nepal will face Sri Lanka in the other quarter-final from that group on September 29.

Group B comprises Malaysia, Hong Kong and Oman, with the top two teams advancing to the quarter-finals. The two qualifiers from the group will face Pakistan and Bangladesh in the last eight.

India's women's cricket team have already completed a successful title defence at the Games, beating Sri Lanka by 147 runs in

the final under Harmanpreet Kaur to claim the country's first gold medal at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games.

The men's team will now look to replicate that success, with a strong squad that includes a number of players with international experience.

Iyer, who has led Kolkata Knight Riders to an IPL title and captained Punjab Kings to the IPL final in 2025, will be aiming to add an Asian Games gold medal to his captaincy record as India begin their knockout campaign against Afghanistan. -ANI

BANK MUSCAT RECOGNITION

Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has been recognised with the "Best Performing Companies" Award in the Large-Cap Companies category for the third consecutive year.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



CREDIT EXTENDED BY BANKS

The total credit granted by banks recorded an increase of 12.7 percent while credit granted to the private sector increased by 11.9 percent to reach OMR23.8 billion by the end of July 2026.

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

Duqm Refinery production reaches 110% of design capacity

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Duqm Refinery has reached approximately 110% of its design capacity, recording production of around 255,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 2026, compared with its designed capacity of 230,000 barrels per day.

The Duqm Refinery is gaining strategic importance as one of the most prominent economic partnership projects between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Kuwait, and embodies a model of joint cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector.

Abdullah Al-Ajmi, CEO of Duqm Refinery, affirmed that the refinery continues to strengthen its role as an industrial and strategic asset capable of achieving sustainable added value, supported by the efficiency of its operations, its strategic location, and its ability to access global markets.

He said to the Oman News Agency that the Duqm Refinery continues to solidify its position as a strategic joint venture by op-



timally utilising oil resources and converting crude oil into high-quality refined products that meet the demands of regional and global markets.

It also contributes to diversifying target markets and enhancing the competitiveness of the refining sector, thus supporting the aspirations of the Sultanate of Oman and

the State of Kuwait and strengthening the project's economic value.

He noted that the refinery's revenues reached approximately \$7 billion during 2025, reflecting the

growing size of the business and the increasing role of the refinery in regional and global markets, while management continued to focus on raising operational efficiency and maximising the value of existing assets and investments.

It also succeeded in operating above its design capacity of 230,000 barrels per day, which confirms the efficiency of the operational processes and the reliability of the production units.

He said that the refinery continued to achieve strong production levels during the first half of 2026, with diesel production averaging about 115,400 barrels per day, jet fuel 38,500 barrels per day, naphtha production 61,100 barrels per day, and LPG production 800 metric tonnes per day, in addition to 2,200 metric tonnes per day of petroleum coke and 500 metric tonnes per day of sulphur.

He pointed out that these indicators reflect the refinery's flexibility and its ability to meet global demand for key petroleum products, especially diesel and jet fuel,

given its strategic location which gives it a competitive edge in accessing multiple markets in Asia, Africa and Europe.

In the field of occupational health, safety and environment, he affirmed that the company applies best practices and international regulations to maintain a work environment free of lost-time injuries, which qualified it to receive the gold award from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents in the category of occupational health, safety and environment performance, which is an international acclaim for the efforts made in this field.

Abdullah Al-Ajmi said that the Duqm refinery today represents a successful model of strategic partnership between Kuwait and the Sultanate of Oman, and a project capable of achieving sustainable added value for the Kuwaiti and Omani economies, while continuing to enhance its presence in global markets and support the future of the refining and petrochemical industry in the region.

MSX-listed industrial companies record positive performance



The industrial sector index rose to 9,900 points, up 16 points, resuming its upward trend after declining the previous week, while other indices tended to decline, affected by the decline in investor sentiment amid continued geopolitical tensions in the region and their impact on Gulf stock exchanges

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Industrial companies listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) recorded a positive performance during the week, with the shares of Oman Cement, Al Maha Ceramics, Salalah Mills, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Chlorine and a number of other industrial companies rising.

The shares of these companies attracted investors interest ahead of the announcement of the preliminary financial results for the third quarter of this year.

The industrial sector index rose to 9,900 points, up 16 points, resuming its upward trend after declining the previous week, while other indices tended to decline, affected by the decline in investor sentiment amid continued geopolitical tensions in the region and their impact on Gulf stock exchanges. The main index

of the Muscat Stock Exchange declined by 49 points and closed at 7,554 points, declining for the second week in a row. The financial sector index recorded a decline of about 40 points, the services sector index declined by 20 points, and the Sharia index remained unchanged at its previous level of 623 points.

The Muscat Stock Exchange and the Gulf stock exchanges were affected last week by geopolitical developments in the region, which impacted the sentiment of individual investors and prompted them to sell.

Trading data issued by the Muscat Stock Exchange indicated that sales by individual investors accounted for about 20 percent of the total trading value during the week, compared to purchases of 17.2 percent.

The recorded declines reduced the gains in market capitalisation

which rose to OMR39.41 billion, recording weekly gains estimated at OMR15.8 million.

Trading value during the week reached OMR172.9 million, compared to OMR202.9 million in the week before, registering a decline of 14.7 percent. The number of transactions executed rose to about 49,000 transactions, an increase of 18.6 percent from the previous week's level of 41,000 transactions. The gains were on the back of benefiting from the increase in trading on the shares of OQ Gas Networks, which witnessed the execution of 9,684 transactions, OQ Basic Industries, which witnessed the execution of 8,858 transactions, and Bank Sohar International, which witnessed the execution of 8,734 transactions.

Bank Sohar topped the list of most traded companies in terms of trading value with OMR39.6 million, representing 22.9 percent of the total trading value. OQ Exploration and Production came in second with trades amounting to OMR27.3 million, Bank Muscat came in third with trades amounting to OMR24.6 million, Omanel came in fourth with trades amounting to OMR21.3 million and OQ Basic Industries came in fifth with trades amounting to OMR19.8 million Omani riyals, representing 11.4 percent of the total trading value.

During the week prices of 31 securities rose, compared to 34 securities whose prices declined and 30 securities that remained unchanged at their previous levels. Oman Refreshments shares

Oman stock market softens on geopolitical caution and softer oil prices

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Omani stock market closed this week slightly lower, with the MSX 30 index down 0.65% to 7554.13 points. The value of shares traded decreased by 14.81%, while the number of shares traded slid by 21.25%. Attention was on revived US-Iran talks, which helped stabilise the market to some extent. However, persistent maritime disruptions and the lack of a concrete diplomatic timeline capped upside, according to an industry watcher.

While the possible reopening of the Strait of Hormuz reignited hopes for de-escalation, continuous energy-flow risks and low shipping traffic continued to weigh on sentiment. "Softer oil prices amid increased hopes of normalisation also created some pressure, especially as Oman crude prices declined," said Andrei Constantin, Commercial Director and Trading Adviser at TFP Software.

Meanwhile, markets also focused on Fed speeches this week following last week's interest rate decision. The support for potentially higher interest rates maintained expectations of continued monetary policy tightening, especially as S&P Global's Flash US Composite PMI Output Index surged this month to its highest level since July 2021. This further strengthens the possibility of more hikes and could pressure global sentiment and Oman's MSX 30 index.



At the sector level, the industrial sector rose slightly by 0.17% this week, closing at 9907.92 points. Oman Cement jumped by 5.18%, while Jazeera Steel Products increased by 0.54%. Voltamp Energy, OQ Base Industries, and Oman Cables Industry declined by 1.60%, 1.56%, and 0.15%, respectively.

The services index edged lower by 0.67%, finishing the week at 3009.25 points. Asyad Shipping slid by 7.96%,

followed by Renaissance Services, Ooredoo, and Al Batina Power, each recording losses of 2.81%, 1.88%, and 0.51%, respectively. Meanwhile, Phoenix Power advanced by 2.17%, while Al Jazeera Services rose by 1.20%.

Meanwhile, the financial index decreased by 0.29% this week, closing at 13,578.28 points. Sohar International Bank, Al Anwar Investment and Omnivest declined by 2.08%, 1.91%, and 0.98%, respectively. Bank Dhofar, Bank Nizwa, Bank Muscat, and National Bank of Oman closed with limited increases.

"Looking ahead, traders will likely remain focused on clear progress in US-Iran talks and the prospect of the Strait of Hormuz reopening. Any material updates regarding de-escalation and improved shipping conditions could lift markets, while disruptions can continue to pose risks. At the same time, any further Fed guidance could influence market sentiment," he further added.

recorded the highest gains, rising by 18.8 percent and closing at OMR1.200. Oman Arab Bank shares rose by 13.9 percent and closed at 319 rials.

Dhofar Food and Investment shares climbed by about 13 percent, National Gas shares also rose by 7.8 percent while Oman Chromite shares recorded an increase of 7.3 percent.

Al Hassan Engineering (under liquidation) stock recorded the highest losses, declining by 16.6 percent and closing at 5 baisa. Building Materials Industry stock declined by 9.6 percent and closed at 75 baisa.

Sohar Power stock fell to 190 baisa, declining by 9.5 percent.

Asyad Shipping stock declined to 208 baisa, recording a drop of 7.9 percent. Fincorp Financial Center stock declined by 6.9 percent and closed at 94 baisa.

OQ Basic Industries has invited its shareholders to attend the Ordinary General Meeting scheduled for October 15 to discuss a proposal to distribute cash dividends to shareholders of 5.2 baisa per share for the first half of this year and a performance-related cash dividend of 2.6 baisa per share. These distributions come after the group's net profits rose in the first half of this year to OMR43.4 million, compared to OMR23.4 million in the same period last year.

Al Anqa Energy Company also

invited its shareholders to attend the Ordinary General Assembly meeting scheduled for October 7, which will discuss the distribution of cash dividends to shareholders from the company's retained earnings at a rate of 81 baisa per share. The company recorded net profits of OMR13.3 million in the first half of this year, compared to OMR12.2 million in the same period last year.

The audited financial statements for the first half of this year indicated that the company's retained earnings rose to OMR130.4 million by the end of last June, compared to OMR118.4 million in December and OMR109 million in June of last year.

MARKET

Credit extended by banks in Oman increases by 12.7% by end of July

Data released by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) showed that the total investments of conventional commercial banks in securities witnessed an increase of 26.2 percent, reaching approximately OMR7.3 billion by the end of July 2026

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An analysis of the activities of traditional commercial banks during the period (July 2025-July 2026) indicates the continued growth of credit in the Sultanate of Oman. The total credit granted by

banks recorded an increase of 12.7 percent while credit granted to the private sector increased by 11.9 percent to reach OMR23.8 billion by the end of July 2026. Data released by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) showed that the total investments of conventional commercial banks in



securities witnessed an increase of 26.2 percent, reaching approximately OMR7.3 billion by the end of July 2026. Investment in government development bonds (GDBs) increased by 20.4 percent compared to the same period last year, reaching OMR2.5

billion, while investments in foreign securities increased by 30.8 percent to reach OMR2.7 billion by the end of July 2026. On the liabilities side, total deposits with conventional commercial banks recorded an increase of 14.6 percent to reach OMR29.3 billion by the end of July 2026.

Within total deposits, government deposits with commercial banks recorded an increase of 9.2 percent to reach approximately OMR6.4 billion, while deposits of public sector institutions increased by 57.9 percent to reach

approximately OMR2.6 billion during the same period. Private sector deposits recorded an increase of 13.9 percent to reach OMR19.3 billion in July 2026, constituting 66.1 percent of total deposits with conventional commercial banks.

RECOGNITION



Bank Muscat wins ‘Best Performing Companies’ award for third year

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its leadership and distinguished position in the banking sector, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has been recognised with the “Best Performing Companies” Award in the Large-Cap Companies category for the third consecutive year at the 2026 Alam Al Iktisaad Wal A'mal Awards. Organised annually by the magazine. The awards recognise outstanding companies listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX). The awards ceremony was recently held under the auspices of Sheikh Dr. Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidi, Advisor at the Diwan of Royal Court, and attended by a number of officials, CEOs, business leaders, representatives of public joint-stock companies and various private-sector institutions. Osamah Mahmoud Al Abdullatif, Deputy General Manager for Project Finance & International Branches at Bank Muscat, received the award on behalf of the Bank. The recognition marks another addition to Bank Muscat's continued achievements and reflects its outstanding performance, leading position in the banking sector, ability to achieve sustainable growth and commitment to creating value for its various stakeholders. The award also demonstrates the success of the Bank's strategy to develop its business and continue investing across key areas, including digital transformation, innovation, customer experience and human capital development, alongside its active contribution to Oman's economic and social development. Commenting on the achievement, Osamah Mahmoud Al Abdullatif, Deputy General Manager for Project Finance & International Branches at Bank Muscat, said: “We are delighted to once again receive this prestigious award, which recognises the strong performance that Bank Muscat continues to deliver and reflects the success of its strategy in consolidating its leadership position in the banking sector. We are proud of this achievement, which is the result of the continuous efforts

of our team and the support and trust we receive from our customers, shareholders and partners. We will continue working towards sustainable growth, developing our banking services and solutions, and investing in innovation and digital transformation to further enhance customer experience and create sustainable value across our various products and services.” Building on more than four decades of experience, Bank Muscat continues to play a pivotal role in the banking sector and the national economy by offering a comprehensive range of banking products and services to individuals, corporates and institutions, alongside digital banking and investment solutions. The Bank also continues to invest in advanced technologies and enhance its digital channels and services to deliver an easier, more efficient and secure banking experience in line with the rapid developments taking place across the financial and banking sector. Bank Muscat also remains committed to supporting national priorities and strengthening its role as an active partner in Oman's sustainable development journey. This is achieved through supporting various economic sectors, empowering small and medium enterprises, developing national talent, and implementing programmes and initiatives in the areas of corporate social responsibility and sustainability. The Bank continues to operate with a clear vision focused on creating long-term value for customers, shareholders and the wider community, in alignment with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. This recognition adds to Bank Muscat's extensive record of local, regional and international awards and accolades, reflecting its success across various areas of banking. These include, among others, being named among Forbes Middle East's Top 30 Most Valuable Companies, as well as receiving the Best Private Bank in Oman award from EMEA Finance and Euromoney, and the Best Brand in Customer Experience – Corporate Banking award from Muscat Media Group.

PROMOTION

BYD launches its latest ownership campaign ‘Electric Today. Endless Possibilities’

MUSCAT: Oman's automotive landscape is shifting into a new gear as BYD launches its latest ownership campaign, “Electric Today. Endless Possibilities.” Running from 17 August to 17 October 2026, the campaign brings together an expanded model range with a package of value-driven benefits, reinforcing BYD's position at the forefront of new energy vehicle technology across the Sultanate. Customers purchasing through the promotion can look forward to special pricing across the lineup, along with a suite of complimentary extras built around long-term peace of mind. Every eligible retail purchase comes with one year of free insurance through Liva Insurance, a free scheduled service package, and a complimentary EV charger. Buyers can choose selected models to finance their vehicle through Oman Arab Bank can also benefit from two months of complimentary installments, subject to the bank's approval. OAB offer only for limited models. All vehicles remain backed by BYD's industry-leading protection: a 6-year or 150,000 km vehicle warranty and an 8-year or 200,000 km battery warranty, whichever comes first in each case (Terms & Conditions Apply). At the heart of the campaign sits a lineup built to suit nearly every kind of driver. Leading the way are two of BYD's newest Super Hybrid Icons, the all-new Sealion 5 DM-i and the Seal 6 DM-i. The Sealion 5



DM-i brings the brand's “Ocean X” design philosophy to a full-sized SUV format, wrapped around a roomy, passenger-focused interior, while the Seal 6 DM-i pairs a sculpted, aerodynamic profile with ventilated power seats for a more elevated driving feel. Sitting above them is the flagship ATTO 8, a seven-seat luxury SUV producing 480 hp and equipped with intelligent all-wheel drive and built-in massage seating. Buyers drawn to hybrid efficiency will find the SEAL 7 DM-i particularly compelling, with a combined range reaching up to 850

km inside a refined, ocean-themed cabin. The line-up's efficiency credentials continue with the Qin Plus DM-i, capable of covering up to 990 km on a single tank-and-charge combination, and the Song Plus DM-i, which rounds out its practicality with a 360-degree camera system and a signature 15.6-inch rotatable infotainment display. For those who need more rugged capability, the Shark 6 hybrid pickup adds Vehicle-to-Load (V2L) functionality to the mix, while the fully electric ATTO 3 offers the added confidence of BYD's Blade Battery technology.

BYD is inviting customers across the Sultanate to visit their nearest showroom and experience the range in person, discovering firsthand how each model blends design, performance and technology. With special pricing layered on top of a comprehensive ownership package, the “Electric Today. Endless Possibilities.” campaign gives customers a compelling reason to make the switch now, whatever their driving needs may be — from family SUVs to performance sedans and capable pickups. In Oman, BYD vehicles are distributed by World Auto Business.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Tourism conditions improve across most economies, despite global headwinds

GENEVA: Travel and tourism conditions have strengthened across most of the world, a new World Economic Forum (WEF) report finds, but destinations face a growing challenge: turning record demand into lasting value amid rising costs, geopolitical and climate disruption, workforce shortages and mounting pressure on infrastructure and communities. Developed in collaboration with Zurich Insurance Group, the 10th edition of the Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2026, launched at Beyond Tourism Day, finds that 101 of 110 ranked economies improved their scores between 2024 and 2026, with the average rising 2.1% - the fastest pace since 2019. Gains were driven by increased cultural resources, tourism infrastructure and services, and air connectivity and business travel. Japan leads the Index, followed by the United States, Spain, Australia and France. “The latest Travel & Tourism Development Index shows that the enabling conditions for travel and tourism are at their strongest since the pandemic, with 92% of economies improving since 2024,” said Ramya Krishnaswamy, Head of Experience Economy and Cities, World Economic Forum. “The next chapter is not simply about attracting more visitors, but it is going to be about creating greater value by investing in people, infrastructure and stronger public-private collaboration so tourism delivers lasting benefits for communities, businesses and destinations.” The Index also shows that tourism is facing growing challenges.

The latest Travel & Tourism Development Index shows that the enabling conditions for travel and tourism are at their strongest since the pandemic, with 92% of economies improving since 2024

Between 2024 and 2026, travel became less affordable in three out of four economies, while tourism investment failed to keep pace with rising demand and labour shortages threatened further growth. Benefits for local communities also weakened during this period, highlighting that more visitors do not automatically translate into better livelihoods or higher quality jobs, particularly in destinations where tourism is highly seasonal. Despite these pressures, emerging tourism economies are gaining ground. Since 2019, the largest emerging economies have improved their TTDI scores more than twice as fast as the Top 20, with Asia-Pacific economies accounting for seven of the 10 fastest-improving performers. Albania recorded the largest overall gain between 2024 and 2026. “Tourism is a major part of the global economy, and the TTDI makes clear that resilience is what keeps that value intact when conditions change,” said Cara Morton, CEO Global Businesses and Operations, Zurich Insurance Group. “That kind of resilience requires business and governments to take responsibility together.” - WAM

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

India's forex reserves fall by \$14.88bn to \$765.90bn

MUMBAI: India's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$14.88 billion to \$765.90 billion in the week ended September 18, according to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. The country's forex reserves stood at \$780.78 billion in the previous week ended September 11. According to the RBI's Weekly Statistical Supplement, the decline was mainly driven by a fall in foreign currency assets, the largest component of India's foreign exchange reserves. Foreign currency assets fell by \$14.82 billion to \$630.98 billion during the week. The value of gold reserves, however, increased by \$68 million to \$111.29 billion, providing a marginal offset to the overall decline in reserves. Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) declined by \$106 million to \$18.74 billion, while India's reserve position in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) decreased by \$27 million to \$4.89 billion. Despite the sharp weekly decline, India's foreign exchange reserves remained \$74.79 billion higher than their level at the end of March 2026, according to the RBI data. -ANI



ADVERTISE WITH US,
FIND THE RIGHT **CANDIDATES**
FOR YOUR COMPANY

CONNECT

PRINT EDITION

WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE

Email to : amcoman@choueirigroup.com



RENT



RENT OR SALE?

PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE

Email: amcoman@choueirigroup.com

CARGO



CARGO MADE SIMPLE

Advertise with us

Send your advertisement to: amcoman@choueirigroup.com

VACANCY

PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE

Send your ad to: amcoman@choueirigroup.com



WJ Towell Group Company



- Fleet of 2,000 vehicles
- Choose from a wide range of brands & models
- PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available
- Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease

Quality car rentals at competitive prices.

Muscat 9679 0594 9679 0684	Sohar 9731 6218 Salalah 9429 9325	www.orbit-oman.com	
-------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--	---

JOB VACANCY

WE ARE HIRING

MEP Project Manager

Requirements:

- Minimum 15 years of experience with Bachelor degree in Mechanical / Electrical.
- GCC experience preferred.

Interested candidates may send their updated CV to

jobseeker.net55@gmail.com

WANTED

Experienced South Asian **Male Cook** with housekeeping knowledge to work in a Villa for an Expatriate family in Muscat.

Contact : 96465689

URGENTLY REQUIRED

A Reputed ELV and ICT Company based in Oman muscat is looking

SALES / TECHNICAL ENGINEER

for with DL & Good Sales Skills interested candidate

Contact email to:

nk119229@gmail.com

REACH EMPLOYERS THROUGH ADVERTISING



Publish your ad with us today

Send your advertisement to amcoman@choueirigroup.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

- ACCOUNTANT with experience in Audit up to Finalization, VAT & Admin.
- AUTO-ELECTRICIANS with experience in Starters & Alternator repair.
- SALESMEN for Spare parts and Hydraulic Hoses.
- HYDRAULIC HOSE TECHNICIANS
- OUTDOOR SALESMAN/MARKETING SPECIALISTS

Send your CV to

admin@ahsauto.com

JOB WANTED

FINANCE

Chartered Accountant, 23 years' experience as Finance Head & Auditing firm in Oman. Well versed with Banking, IFRS and taxation, Banking & E-invoicing (basics) seeks suitable position.

Contact : 94274470

PROCUREMENT

15+ yrs experience in Oman EPC, EPCM manufacturing, PEB & Oil & Gas sector. Good in Logistics & Freight, Import & Customs clearance Incoterms2020.

Whatsapp : 75123132

FINANCE

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

CONTACT : 72420067, 95272057

FINANCE

FINANCE MANAGER/ Chief Accountant 17+ years' Oman experience (Logistics, hospitality, manufacturing, contracting, trading). OACPA Consultant. Expert in IFRS, VAT, corporate tax, banking facilities & project costing.

WA: 79788708 | neilks2020@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

Seeking a suitable position in Sales, Marketing having 16 yrs of experience in Oman & 25 yrs of total experience in the field of Infrastructure, Industrial & Building material products. BE Mechanical, DIM, Valid D/L.

Contact : 94976056

ENGINEER

PMP-certified Construction Project Manager with 10+ yrs Oman experience. M.E., Construction Eng. & Mgmt., and skilled in project execution, coordination, & team leadership. Immediately available.

Contact : 91736863

TEACHER

Lady teacher, Assistant professor MBA, B.Ed, Ph.D. (Management studies) pursuing 2nd yrs, with 16 yrs' experience, seeks teaching position in Oman. Immediate joining.

Email: mohammediyasmeen5@gmail.com

Contact: +968 77866559

ENGINEER

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER with 21+ yrs experience in building construction, FM, civil maintenance, QS, site execution, project coordination and documentation. Seeking a suitable position in Oman.

94194399 | Ahmadoman015@gmail.com

HR/FINANCE

Indian, male, Masters in degree in HR and finance with 12+ yrs of experience in Oman as an HR with valid Oman D/L. Looking for a job currently in Oman.

Contact : +968 9383 5905

Email: chris_alwin@yahoo.com

RENT

RENT

PARTY /MARRIAGE HALL

Available for Rent/ Investment/ Partnership Spacious, partly equipped ideally located in Rumais - Barka

Enquiries : 99326921/99323396.

JOB VACANCY

ADMINISTRATION

A leading shipping line & freight forwarding co. in Muscat, urgently seeking for Operations & Customer service - M/F send cv - info@vestalshipping.com

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

40 yrs female (MBA Fin) as accountant 14 yrs exp in Oman with D/L & own car. GSM: 98582376

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

CA with 15 yrs experience in construction, oilfield seeks suitable placement. Contact: 96543236

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

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

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

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

Male require for suitable post. Admin or accounts. Contact : 72412899

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

DRIVER

Driver with 15 yrs experience looking for job as house driver. Contact: 92503551

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

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

Electrical Engineer (B.Tech) with more than 2 yrs of experience in Oman, seeking an opportunity in the Electrical or MEP field, valid Oman D/L and available to join immediately. Contact: 75220047, Email: harikrishnanmini@gmail.com

Diploma Mechanical engineering with 8+ yrs of experience in Oman with valid D/L, seek job Contact: 72848242. Email jibinabraham189@gmail.com

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

IT

Full-Stack Software Engineer, 2+ yrs GCC exp in web apps, e-commerce & portals. Present in Oman, immediate joiner. WhatsApp/Call: +96896094823 Email- sadullah2000@gmail.com

IT support, system support Engineer with 1.5 yrs experience in India seeking opportunities in Muscat. Currently in Oman, available for immediate joining. Contact: +968 95848213

LOGISTICS

BBA Logistics and Port Management graduate with 1yr experience in operations. Presently in Oman and can join immediately. Contact No: +968-72411761 Email: mohammedayan9535@gmail.com

MEDICAL

MSc Microbiology graduate with around 2 yrs of experience, seeking opportunities in hospital, industrial, and laboratory sectors. Contact: 75207861.

SALES/MARKETING

Experienced FMCG Sales professional with 7+ yrs in Oman. Seeking sales supervisor, HORECA, sales executive, business development or unit manager roles. Immediate joining. Contact: +968-98706181. Email: zaidahmadsyed87@gmail.com

Indian male, MBA, 13 yrs experienced in channel sales, project sales, business development looking for suitable opportunities. Contact 92790532

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



CARGO AND LOGISTICS

PROMOTE YOUR SERVICES WITH US

Send your advertisement to amcoman@choueirigroup.com

EUROPEAN PRESSURISED REACTOR



India and France discuss deployment of EPR technology

NEW DELHI: India and France on Friday discussed the proposed deployment of European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) technology in India, along with localisation of the nuclear supply chain and cooperation on pumped hydro storage projects, the Ministry of Power said.

Power Secretary Pankaj Agarwal held talks in New Delhi with Bernard Fontana, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of French energy company EDF, to review ongoing engagement on the proposed deployment of EPR reactors in India.

“The discussions centred on the deployment of EPR technology, India’s regulatory reforms for the nuclear sector, cooperation on pumped hydro storage projects, and the way forward for a robust, mutually beneficial partnership,” the ministry said in its release.

EDF also briefed the Indian side about its efforts to develop a domestic ecosystem and supply chain for nuclear projects.

“EDF apprised the Indian side of its efforts to build an ecosystem and supply chain in India for large-scale localization,” the ministry said.

It added that EDF reiterated that “a sizeable programme with multiple nuclear reactors would

give suppliers confidence and enable economies of scale by leveraging Indian industry’s capabilities.”

Agarwal also briefed the French delegation on progress in finalising India’s regulatory framework for nuclear power, including the Draft SHANTI - Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India - Rules and Regulations.

The draft rules have been placed by the Department of Atomic Energy in the public domain for stakeholder consultation.

“The Rules provide for a streamlined, time-bound licensing framework and enable participation of private and foreign partners in India’s nuclear power programme,” the ministry said.

The two sides also discussed cooperation on pumped hydro storage projects, building on the proposed NTPC-EDF joint venture in this area.

Officials from the Ministry of Power, Ministry of External Affairs, Central Electricity Authority, NTPC Limited and NPCIL attended the meeting from the Indian side, while EDF and the Embassy of France in India were represented from the French side. — ANI

UNHCR chief says peace is most durable solution to forced displacement

Today, more than 117 million people have been forced to flee their homes by conflict, violence, persecution, and other threats to their safety, UN High Commissioner for Refugees said

UNITED NATIONS: UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Barham Salih said that the most durable solution to forced displacement is peace.

Humanitarians will continue to do their part: protecting people forced to flee, standing with the countries and communities that receive them, and pursuing every opportunity for solutions. But success means more than that, he told the UN Security Council in his first briefing as high commissioner.

“Success cannot be that we become better at keeping people alive through another year of war. It cannot be that a refugee camp established in response to an emergency is still there 50 years later. And it cannot be that children inherit displacement from their parents,” he said.

“Success must ultimately mean creating the conditions in which people no longer need us.” Seventy-five years ago, the



Refugee Convention established a promise to protect people when peace fails, Salih said.

“We must keep that promise. But our collective ambition must also be greater: to prevent displacement where we can, resolve it where it has occurred, and create the conditions in which people can rebuild their lives in safety and dignity. Ultimately, the most durable solution to forced displacement is peace.”

Members of the Security Council carry a unique responsibility to help make peace possible, he said. “For the millions of people forced from their homes -- and the millions more who should never have to flee -- I urge this great council to use that responsibility.”

“Today, more than 117 million people have been forced to flee their homes by conflict, violence,

persecution, and other threats to their safety,” Salih said, adding that forced displacement reveals something fundamental about the state of the world.

Displacement is rapidly outpacing solutions. Conflicts are multiplying. Many are becoming more protracted. Political solutions remain elusive. And millions of people who fled what they hoped would be a temporary crisis find themselves displaced for years, sometimes for generations. This is not only a humanitarian challenge. It is fundamentally a challenge to international peace and security, said Salih.

Humanitarian organisations deal every day with the consequences of conflict. They protect people who are forced to flee. They support countless countries and communities that receive them,

and work to help people find a way out of displacement. But humanitarians cannot create peace, he said.

The UN Charter entrusts the Security Council with a unique responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. That responsibility matters profoundly to the millions of refugees, the internally displaced, and stateless persons that humanitarians serve.

Salih asked the Security Council to use its political influence to end the conflicts and sustain peace processes, to protect civilians and uphold international humanitarian law, to preserve asylum and uphold the principle of non-refoulement, to invest in solutions from the outset, and to support refugee-hosting countries and countries of return. — Xinhua

THAILAND

Bangkok flooding triggers disaster declaration across 50 districts

BANGKOK: Authorities in Bangkok on Saturday declared a disaster across 50 districts in Thailand’s capital after days of heavy rainfall caused severe flooding.

Bangkok Governor Chadchart Sittipunt said the eastern parts of the city were impacted most.

By Saturday afternoon, Chadchart said the situation had “stabilised” and added: “If more rainwater doesn’t fall in the area, it will be solved.”

“If the rain stops, it is expected that it will take two to three days to drain the floodwater,” he said in an update on social media.

More rain in Bangkok forecast

Chadchart said almost 300 millimetres (11.8 inches) of rain had fallen since Thursday afternoon and warned that more rain was expected.

“The rain keeps falling and we are doing our best. We are trying to pump the water out, but the water in canals are full,” the governor said on social media and advised residents to move their possessions to higher ground.

“The risk areas are those who live near canals. Every canal is now filled,” he said.

Chadchart urged bedridden patients dependent on life-saving medical equipment to consider a temporary stay in hospital.

Thai authorities said more than 84,000 people in 21 provinces nationwide have been impacted by flooding as of Saturday, especially in the central region.

Floods evoke memories of deadly 2011 deluge

“The water keeps coming in. It’s hard to go out now. It’s like at my waist level now,” local vendor Somkid Pheuk-ngam, told the AFP news agency.

“I cannot go anywhere. I have been closing my shop for two days now,” she told AFP, adding that while she often gets flooded, “I think this time is worse than the 2011 flood.”

Flooding across Thailand in 2011 killed more than 500 people



and damaged millions of homes.

Thailand’s Meteorological Department warned the heavy rain would persist in most parts of the country through Sunday and pointed to a strong low-pressure system dominating the central region and strengthening monsoon conditions.

In the Pra Kanong district, a hodgepodge of markets, hotels, cafes and bars on the main Sukhumvit Road, floodwaters dumped garbage through narrow alleyways where expensive villas stand alongside working-class shop-houses and blocks of flats. — dw

CENTRAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Palestine opens registration for legislative vote

RAMALLAH: The Palestinian Central Elections Commission (CEC) on Saturday opened registration for electoral lists seeking to participate in the upcoming legislative elections.

The CEC said in a press statement that it began accepting applications at 8:00 a.m. local time (0500 GMT) at its headquarters in Al-Bireh in the West Bank and its office in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip.

The registration period will last 12 days. The commission said a large number of electoral lists submitted applications on the first day in Ramallah and Deir al-Balah.

Under the applicable electoral law, candidates for the Legislative Council must run through electoral lists, and individual candidacies are not accepted.

Each list must include between 16 and 132 candidates and meet the legal requirements for women’s representation.

Applications must be submitted by the list’s coordinator and authorised representative, along with all required forms, documents and supporting materials.

The CEC said all applications will be reviewed and verified to determine whether they meet the

legal requirements, stressing that submitting an application does not constitute its acceptance or approval.

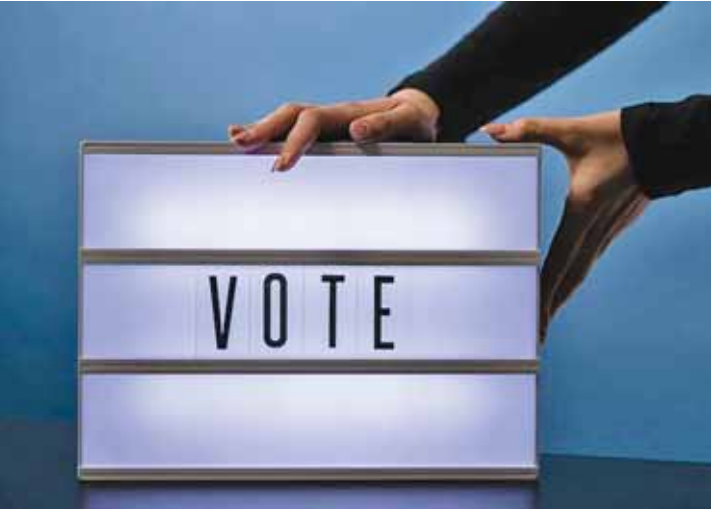
Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas issued a decree in July setting Nov. 28 as the date for legislative elections, with presidential elections to be held in the first quarter of 2027.

Abbas had previously approved amendments to the electoral law, including increasing the number of seats in the Legislative Council to 200, lowering the minimum age for candidates to 23, increasing women’s representation and requiring all candidates to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The last Palestinian legislative elections were held in 2006, when Hamas won a majority of seats in the Legislative Council.

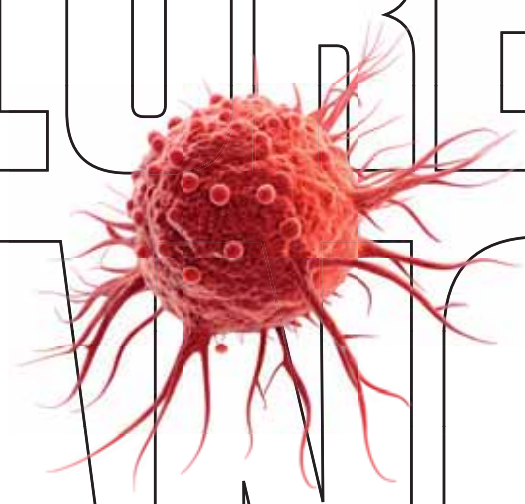
Subsequent tensions between Hamas and Fatah led to a political and geographical division between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In April, Palestinians voted in local elections in the West Bank and Deir al-Balah, marking the first voting process since the outbreak of the Gaza war in October 2023. — Xinhua



FATTY
FOOD
RAISES
RISK OF
COLORECTAL
CANCER

Did you know fatty foods can increase production of an acid in your gut that promotes tumor growth? That's on top of all the other health risks linked to fatty foods, like fries and burgers



The list of health risks associated with foods high in fat and low in fibre is long. It includes among others, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL) or “bad” cholesterol, clogged arteries, weight gain, heart disease, liver stress, blood sugar spikes and bad digestion.

And the list goes on.
Now a team of German researchers has shown how so-called Western diets that are often full of fatty foods can lead to the development of one of the most common — and deadliest — cancers in adults under 50 years of age.
The researchers from the Technical University of Munich, RWTH Aachen and the German Institute of Human Nutrition Potsdam-Rehbrücke (Dife) found that these unhealthy diets sustain certain gut bacteria that produce a secondary bile acid — which in turn promotes tumor growth.
Their results were published in the August 2026 issue of the journal Gut.
“What’s special about our study is that it shows the causality,” Annika Osswald, the first author of the study and a PhD student at the German Institute of Human Nutrition, told DW. “Until now, we only knew there was some sort of connection between [a certain] secondary bile acid and colorectal cancer.”
How bile acid is linked to cancer
The fat in the food you eat triggers the production of primary bile acids in your liver. These acids are important — your body needs them to break down and absorb fats. Most of the primary bile acids are reabsorbed and returned to the liver. But a small fraction reaches the colon, where certain bacteria convert them into secondary bile acids, including one called deoxycholic acid (DCA). The more fatty foods you eat, the higher the concentration of DCA in your colon. And that’s where the problems start. Osswald and her colleagues tested this in mice in a lab. “At the core of our work to prove causality were the mouse models,” Osswald explained.
The research team implanted DCA-producing bacteria into mice whose intestinal microbiome they controlled completely. Then the scientists induced colorectal cancer in these mice, and also in mice without the bacteria. The mice that had DCA-producing bacteria in their gut saw more tumor growth than the mice that didn’t have it.
Cell division in the mice with DCA was increased as well. Increased cell division makes it more likely for cancer to develop, because it multiplies the chances of DNA replication errors. These DNA mutations during cell division can stack up and lead to cancer.
To see whether the process they had observed in mice also takes place in humans, the researchers analysed stool samples from more than a thousand people, both with and without colorectal cancer. Genes of DCA-producing bacteria were found more frequently in people with colorectal cancer.
“Our results show how much a Western high-fat diet and the associated changes in the gut microbiome can affect human gut health,” said microbiologist Sören Ocvirk, another author of the study.
Osswald emphasises that the team’s work is foundational, and that more research needs to be done. Still, having proven the causality between more DCA-producing gut bacteria and increased tumour growth points to possible treatments of colorectal cancer as well.
Why it’s vital to better understand colorectal cancer
Colorectal cancer is the only cancer for which the mortality rate in people under 50 years has increased in the past few decades. That’s according to findings published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in January 2026.
The number of deaths from brain cancer, breast cancer, leukemia and lung cancer all went down in the US from 1990 to 2023. But the number of deaths from colorectal cancer increased by 1.1% annually, starting in 2005. While the US is only one region in the world, it is often considered a sufficient indicator of such trends, especially when it comes to the Western diet.
When detected early, cancer starting in the colon or the rectum is treatable.
But symptoms frequently don’t present in the early stages of the disease. And when they do, they may be misinterpreted as indications of less harmful conditions like hemorrhoids or irritable bowel syndrome.
Symptoms for colorectal cancer include, among others, blood in or on your stool, intermittent or constant diarrhea or constipation, persistent abdominal pain, gas or cramps and feeling bloated.
Another obstacle to early detection is that some people may feel embarrassed discussing colorectal health symptoms with their doctor.
So, try not to be embarrassed, talk to your doctor.
How can study results help with treating colorectal cancer?
One option to be considered in the future could be microbiome transplants.
“You could transplant the microbiome of people who have fewer DCA-producing bacteria in their gut into patients with colorectal cancer,” Osswald said. “That could potentially slow down tumor growth.”
But the best option is to prevent colorectal cancer in the first place. While some people may have a genetic disposition to developing colorectal cancer, a lot is down to lifestyle factors.
Eating healthily, reducing the amount of meat and fatty foods in your diet, and not smoking, are some good ways to decrease your colorectal cancer risk. — **DW**

SPORTS

Three new world records set in men and women’s weightlifting



China’s Yang Liuyue set world records in the snatch and total on her way to winning the women’s 61-kilogram weightlifting title at the 20th Asian Games on Friday

NAGOYA: Ri Won Ju of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea set new world records in the clean and jerk at 198kg and the total at 349kg on his way to winning the men’s 70kg weightlifting title at the 20th Asian Games on Saturday.

ICC WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP

Any series against Australia is worth looking forward to: South Africa coach Shukri Conrad

DURBAN: South Africa head coach Shukri Conrad is looking forward to hosting Australia in a three-match ICC World Test Championship series, with the reigning champions set to take on the No. 1-ranked Test side from October 9, according to the ICC.

The series will bring the two teams together again after they contested the 2025 WTC Final at Lord’s, where South Africa defeated Australia by five wickets. Aiden Markram’s 136 and Kagiso Rabada’s nine wickets played a key role in South Africa’s triumph.

With the teams meeting again in the ongoing WTC cycle, Conrad is particularly excited about facing Australia on home soil for the first time since 2018.

“Any series against Australia is worth looking forward to, and more particularly because it’s at home,” Conrad told ICC.

“We haven’t had international [Test] cricket in South Africa for almost two years. Certainly looking forward to playing in front of our home crowds against arguably the number one side in the world,” he added.

The South Africa head coach also expects the rivalry to add an extra edge to the series following his team’s victory over Australia in the WTC Final last year.

“I think there’s always spice between South Africa and Australia. Maybe not as spicy as in years gone by, but I think the fact that we put one over them in the (World Test Championship) final last year might add a little bit of spice to what should be a really exciting and spicy series,” Conrad said. “It’s always exciting when Australia arrive on our shores and I am sure this one’s going to be no different,” he added.

“We respect them for the champion side that they are. I think we



exposed one or two vulnerabilities in their lineup last year that I think we can build on. We also know that they’ve got a world-class bowling attack and we certainly have the belief that when we play to our true potential we could find ways of nullifying that. So loads of learnings,” the South Africa coach added.

“A three-match series is a lot different to a one-off test. It’s our first three-match series in I don’t know how long. We are accustomed to playing two-match series. So this is going to make it a real test for us. I think from all the learnings that we have taken from the final and the victory over them, it certainly gives us a belief that when we play to our potential, then we can certainly put one over them,” he said.

The two sides’ previous series in the red-ball format came in late 2022 to early 2023, when hosts Australia beat South Africa 2-0 in three matches.

The upcoming three-Test contest will be an important assignment in the 2025-27 WTC cycle, with both sides currently among the leading teams in the standings and eyeing a place at next year’s Ultimate Test at The Oval. Australia occupy the top spot with eight wins from 10 games and a points percentage of 80%, while South Africa sit second with a points percentage of 75%, as quoted by the ICC.

The first Test runs from October 9-13 in Durban, followed by the second in Gqeberha from October 18-22 and the third in Cape Town from October 27-31. **-ANI**



in the clean and jerk, which Yang later matched to secure the gold medal.

The 19-year-old Yang had chalked up a world record in the snatch in the women’s 63kg category at this year’s Asian Weightlifting Championships. Pak took the silver with 248kg, while Kuo Hsing-chu from Chinese Taipei finished third with 237kg.

Youngest competitor

As the youngest competitor in the final, Yang said afterward that she did not focus on breaking records

during the competition, but concentrated on her own lifts.

“I panicked a bit after my failed second clean-and-jerk attempt,” she admitted. “I went all out on the third. I told myself to give it everything before stepping onto the platform. Once I started lifting, I couldn’t think anything else.”

Friday marked the Mid-Autumn Festival, a traditional Chinese festival. Yang said the weightlifting team planned to admire the moon from the deck of the cruise ship where the athletes are accommodating, and she would send her

best wishes to her family.

“Before we left, my teammates even said they would post photos of us watching the moon on social media,” she said.

Earlier in the day, 24-year-old Oh Kwang-ok of DPR Korea stood out in the women’s 57kg, posting 104kg in the snatch and 134kg in the clean and jerk for a winning total of 238kg, creating three world records. Thailand lifter Suratwadee Yodsarn settled for silver with 219kg, while Chen Guan-ling of Chinese Taipei came third with 217kg. **-Xinhua**

20-YEAR-OLD THAI SPRINT

From teenage prodigy to Asian sprint star: Puripol Boonson’s rise

NAGOYA: The moment the starting gun fired for the men’s 100 meters at the 2026 Asian Games, Puripol Boonson turned Nagoya’s Paloma Mizuho Stadium into his stage.

The 20-year-old Thai sprinter delivered an unprecedented feat, with three consecutive sub-10-second clockings across the heats, semifinals and final and two Games record-breaking results.

Boonson’s performance in Nagoya was nothing short of extraordinary. The Thai star opened his Asiad campaign with 9.95 seconds in the heats on Thursday, announcing his arrival as the favorite for the title.

He carried that momentum into Friday’s semifinals, where he clocked 9.91 seconds to break the Asian Games record, surpassing the previous mark set by China’s Su Bingtian at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games.

Less than three hours later came the final. Although he got off to a slower start, the Thai sprinter gradually found his rhythm and unleashed his formidable finishing speed. He surged ahead through the middle section of the race and held off a fierce late challenge to cross the finish line first.

He lowered his newly minted Games record once more to 9.90 seconds, with a mild 0.1 m/s tailwind, delivering on his mission to claim the men’s 100m gold for Thailand.

Speaking after the final, Boonson revealed his next goal is to target Su’s Asian record of 9.83 seconds. The landmark performance in Nagoya is the latest chapter in a remarkable record-breaking journey stretching back to his teenage years.

Born in 2006, Boonson was eye-catching at the 2021 Southeast



Asian (SEA) Games in Hanoi, Vietnam, held in May 2022, where he had his breakout international meet, winning gold medals in the sprint triple: 100m, 200m, and 4x100m relay.

Two months later, at the World Athletics U20 Championships in Cali, Colombia, the teenager clocked 10.09 seconds in the men’s 100m semifinals, setting an Asian youth benchmark and drawing global attention.

His defining breakthrough came at the 2025 Southeast Asian Games in Bangkok, Thailand, where Boonson became the first sprinter across Southeast Asia ever to break the 10-second barrier with a stunning 9.94 seconds in the men’s 100m heats under legal wind conditions. Just two hours later, he won the 100m final in 10.00 seconds. At the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games, Boonson made his

Asian Games debut and claimed silver in the men’s 100m in 10.02 seconds, finishing behind China’s veteran athlete Xie Zhenye, which confirmed that the young Thai had established himself among Asia’s leading sprinters.

As attention around him continues to grow, Boonson said he does not want to put too much pressure on himself.

“Instead, I regard it as a driving force to push myself to run faster. Because everyone has expectations for me, I will try my best not to put too much pressure on myself and compete in the most genuine and normal state,” he said. Still only 20 years old, Boonson is far from the end of his journey. With the men’s 200m and 4x100m relay still ahead at the Asian Games, the Thai sprinter will have further opportunities to chase medals and perhaps more records. **-Xinhua**

FINANCIAL CHARGES

Manchester City face reported guilty verdicts in Premier League 115-charge case

MANCHESTER: Manchester City are facing reported guilty verdicts in the majority of the 115 financial charges brought against them by the Premier League, although the club has stressed that the legal process remains ongoing.

Media reports on Friday claimed that an independent panel had found Manchester City guilty on 114 of the 115 counts in the case. The Premier League, however, declined to comment on the reports, while City did not deny that the panel had informed them of its decision, according to ESPN.

A statement issued by City on Friday read, “The Premier League process remains ongoing, with significant elements to be completed,

and subject to strict confidentiality. As such, Manchester City FC’s position remains consistent with the club’s statement of February 2023.”

“The club has diligently respected due process for eight years on the basis that the Premier League Board and Executive would behave as an independent, impartial and fair-minded regulator, free from partisan influence,” the statement added.

The Premier League brought the charges against City in February 2023 following a four-year investigation into alleged financial rule breaches covering a nine-year period between 2009 and 2018.

The case was heard by an independent panel at the International



Dispute Resolution Centre in London, with proceedings beginning in September 2024 and concluding in December after 12 weeks of

hearings and deliberations.

The Premier League’s case centred on allegations that City failed to provide “accurate financial in-

formation that gives a true and fair view of the club’s financial position.”

City have consistently denied the allegations.

Sanctions

The reported verdicts could lead to a range of potential sanctions if guilty findings are confirmed, including a fine, points deduction or expulsion from the Premier League. City are expected to appeal any guilty verdict.

One report claimed the club had sought an injunction on Friday to prevent initial reporting of the verdict, although City strongly denied that this was the case.

The Premier League has main-

tained that the proceedings are private and confidential and has not publicly confirmed the reported verdicts.

The case is separate from City’s previous dispute with UEFA over Financial Fair Play regulations. In February 2020, City were found guilty of breaching UEFA’s FFP rules and were initially handed a two-year ban from European competition and a EUR 30 million fine.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport overturned the suspension five months later and reduced the fine to EUR 10 million.

The latest Premier League case remains subject to the completion of the outstanding elements of the process. **-ANI**

IN PICTURES



HIGHLIGHT OF 20TH ASIAN GAMES: Zhang Liyuan (R) of team China competes during the 50m rifle 3 positions women team final of shooting at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 in Toyota of Aichi Prefecture, Japan. — Xinhua



MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CULTURAL GALA HELD IN COLOMBO, SRI LANKA: Chinese artists perform at a Mid-Autumn Festival cultural gala in Colombo, Sri Lanka. At the gala, artists from China's Zhejiang Performing Arts Group presented vocal music, dance, traditional Chinese folk music and face-changing acrobatics, weaving in elements of Sri Lankan culture. — Xinhua



PROMOTION OF THE UPCOMING FILM 'DAAYRA' IN NEW DELHI: Malayalam actor Prithviraj Sukumaran, Bollywood director Meghna Gulzar and actress Kareena Kapoor Khan pose for a picture during a press conference for the promotion of their upcoming film 'Daayra', in New Delhi. — ANI Photo



COMIC CON AFRICA 2026 HELD IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA: People watch a performance during Comic Con Africa 2026 in Johannesburg, South Africa. — Xinhua



MODELS PRESENT CREATIONS BY AGATHA RUIZ DE LA PRADA DURING MADRID FASHION WEEK: Models present creations by Agatha Ruiz de la Prada during the Madrid Fashion Week in Madrid, Spain. — Xinhua



DATE FESTIVAL IN SALAHUDDIN PROVINCE, IRAQ: Boys taste dates displayed at an annual date festival in Salahuddin Province, Iraq. — Xinhua

OPERA CONCERT THEMED 2026 CHINA-BRAZIL CULTURAL YEAR STAGED IN RIO DE JANEIRO: Singers perform during an opera concert at the Cidade das Artes in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. An opera concert themed the 2026 China-Brazil Cultural Year was staged here with several singers from the China National Opera House presenting opera classics and well-known Chinese pieces to the local audience. — Xinhua

ROUND-UP

Mohsin Automobiles signs XPENG distribution agreement for Oman

The partnership marks XPENG's official entry into Oman and represents a significant step in bringing a new generation of intelligent, sustainable and technology-driven mobility to the local market

MUSCAT: Mohsin Automobiles has signed a strategic distribution agreement with XPENG, the global technology company focused on intelligent new energy vehicle mobility, officially appointing Mohsin Automobiles as the authorised distributor of XPENG vehicles in the Sultanate of Oman.

The agreement was signed by Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, Chief Executive Officer of Mohsin Automobiles, and Ke Wang, General Manager MEA in the presence of senior representatives from both organisations, invited dignitaries, business partners and members of the media.

The partnership marks XPENG's official entry into Oman and represents a significant step in bringing a new generation of intelligent, sustainable and technology-driven mobility to the local market.

Built around the belief that technology will transform the future of mobility, XPENG positions itself as an "Explorer of Future Mobility."

The company describes itself as a technology company at heart, combining in-house engineering, New Energy Vehicle technology and intelligent systems to create new ways for people to experience mobility.

Under the agreement, Mohsin Automobiles LLC will develop a comprehensive sales and



after-sales network for XPENG in Oman. Customers will have access to XPENG's latest generation of new energy vehicles, supported by dedicated showroom facilities, professional sales guidance, reliable servicing and comprehensive customer care throughout the ownership journey.

XPENG is internationally recognized for its focus on intelligent mobility, advanced driver-assistance technologies, electric efficiency, vehicle safety and connected in-car experiences. Its arrival in Oman will introduce customers to a new generation of premium electric vehicles combining innovation, performance, comfort and sustainability.

Commenting on the partnership, Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, Chief Executive Officer of Mohsin Automobiles, said: "We are proud to formalise our partnership with XPENG and welcome this pioneering new energy vehicle brand to the Sul-



tanate of Oman. This appointment reflects our commitment to introducing advanced global automotive technologies that respond to the

evolving needs of customers and support Oman's transition towards cleaner and more sustainable mobility. By combining XPENG's ex-

pertise in intelligent new energy vehicles with our strong market knowledge, infrastructure and customer-focused approach, we look

forward to establishing a trusted and successful presence for the brand in Oman."

He added: "Our priority will be to deliver a complete ownership experience, supported by professional sales guidance, dependable after-sales service and long-term customer care. We are confident that XPENG's advanced technology, distinctive design and intelligent mobility solutions will appeal strongly to customers across the Sultanate."

The partnership brings together XPENG's expertise in new energy vehicle technology and Mohsin Automobiles' extensive understanding of Oman's automotive market. It also supports the Sultanate's sustainability ambitions and its growing focus on electric and environmentally responsible transportation.

Details regarding XPENG's Oman showroom, vehicle line-up, launch schedule and customer services will be announced shortly.

SPECIALISED BANKING PROPOSITION

BankDhofar strengthens women's empowerment through innovative account tailored to their aspirations

MUSCAT: As part of its continued commitment to delivering innovative and inclusive banking solutions, BankDhofar offers the Ladies Account, a specialised banking proposition designed to support women in managing their finances with greater ease, confidence, and flexibility.

Thoughtfully developed to align with the evolving needs of modern customers, the Ladies Account combines essential banking services with a seamless digital-first experience, supported by BankDhofar's extensive network of branches and ATMs across the Sultanate of Oman. The account is positioned as an entry point for women to build long-term banking relationships grounded in trust, convenience, and innovation.

The account offers attractive savings benefits, with competitive returns of up to 3.9%, enabling customers to grow their savings while planning for future financial goals. In addition, BankDhofar provides a range of deposit solutions that support structured long-term planning, whether for retirement, education, or family-related financial needs.

In the insurance space, the Ladies Account provides access to "Laha" Motor Insurance, the first of its kind in Oman, designed specifically for women. The solution offers comprehensive coverage and integrated support services, including roadside assistance and broad geographic protection, enhancing safety, confidence, and convenience for women on the move.

Customers also benefit from a curated suite of exclusive lifestyle privileges and merchant offers across dining, beauty, wellness, and retail outlets, further enrich-



ing the overall banking experience with added everyday value.

Aligned with BankDhofar's broader digital transformation

strategy, the Ladies Account ensures a fully integrated banking journey through mobile and on-line platforms, allowing customers

to securely manage transactions anytime and anywhere, with 24/7 access designed to match modern lifestyle expectations.

Through the Ladies Account, BankDhofar reinforces its commitment to empowering women by providing tailored financial

solutions that support independence, encourage savings discipline, and contribute to long-term financial stability and wellbeing.



TO CONTINUE
READING THE
FULL EDITION,
PLEASE
FOLLOW
OUR OFFICIAL
WHATSAPP
CHANNEL

