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UNGA

Oman calls for
restraint, dialogue
to resolve disputes

NEW YORK: The Sultanate of Oman reaffirmed its steadfast approach to finding peaceful and consensual solutions to disputes, based on the values and principles that help achieve shared goals of securing security and stability for all and advancing economic development projects and prosperity for peoples. This was stated before the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister delivered the statement of the Sultanate of Oman, saying: Dialogue is the true value capable of reminding us of what unites us, as well as its being the optimal means of overcoming differences, building trust and understanding, and resolving issues and crises.

He added: “We would like to

affirm here that the Sultanate of Oman will continue its steadfast approach to finding peaceful and consensual solutions to disputes, based on the values and principles that help us achieve our shared goals of securing security and stability for all and advancing economic development projects and prosperity for our peoples.”

He pointed out that in this same context, refraining from the use of force and interference in the internal affairs of states, and being guided instead by the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and respecting the sovereignty and independence of states, can provide a sound framework that governs international relations and builds trust and constructive cooperation among states. **>A2**

FOOD ITEMS SUBJECT TO ZERO RATE VAT IN OMAN

These decisions shall enter into force as of 1 October 2026

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman’s Tax Authority has applied a zero percent VAT rate to essential items like basic food products, medicines and medical equipment as per three new administrative decisions issued on Sunday.

In addition, veterinary medicines and medical equipment will also have a zero percent VAT rate. All these will enter into force with effect from 1 October, 2026, the Authority said.

These decisions come within the framework of the Sultanate of Oman’s keenness to strengthen the social protection system, alleviate living and financial costs and burdens on citizens and residents, and support vital sectors such as health, agriculture, and animal wealth.

The first decision provides for



GOODS AND PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO ZERO PERCENT VAT

- Livestock including cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and poultry designated for breeding, slaughter, milk production
- Fish and seafood, live, fresh, or frozen, in addition to basic dairy products including long-life and evaporated milk, yoghurt, labneh, butter, and cheeses
- Hatching eggs, fresh and dried vegetables and fruits, legumes, coffee and tea, veterinary vaccines and serums, biological toxins, antibiotics

subjecting a broad and comprehensive list of basic food commodities and materials to the zero percent rate.

The exemptions include livestock and live animals of cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and poultry designated for breeding, slaughter, or milk production, as well as various types of beef, sheep, goat, camel, and poultry meat in all their fresh, chilled, frozen, and

minced forms. The decision also covers a wide range of fish and seafood, whether live, fresh, or frozen, in addition to basic dairy products including long-life and evaporated milk, yoghurt, labneh, butter, and cheeses of various types, as well as table and hatching eggs, fresh and dried vegetables and fruits, legumes, coffee and tea, and various spices and seasonings. **>A4**

INCREASE OF 14.8%

Over 21,500 traffic accidents recorded in Q2 2026

MUSCAT: Official unaudited data issued by the Financial Services Authority showed that approximately 21,700 traffic accidents were recorded with insurance companies during the second quarter of 2026, compared with approximately 18,900 accidents during the corresponding period of 2025, representing an increase of 14.8 percent.

The accidents were distributed between 15,850 minor accidents, accounting for about 73 percent of the total, and 5,893 serious accidents, representing approximately 27 percent.

The data showed that the total number of traffic accident claims during the second quarter of 2026 reached approximately 22,000 claims, recording a growth rate of 7.2 percent compared with the corresponding period of 2025.



Claims for minor accidents rose to 15,800 claims, compared with 14,000 claims, an increase of approximately 12.5 percent.

Conversely, claims for serious accidents involving material

damage declined to 2,900 claims, compared with 3,300 claims, a decrease of approximately 11.9 percent, while claims for serious accidents involving injuries and medical treatment expenses rose

to 3,200 claims, compared with 3,100 claims, an increase of approximately 4 percent.

Claims relating to fatalities also declined from 83 claims to 80 claims.

At the level of total compensation paid, in addition to reported but unsettled claims, the amount reached approximately OMR25.1 million during the second quarter of 2026, recording an increase of 19 percent compared with the corresponding period of 2025.

This was distributed as approximately OMR12.48 million for minor accidents, OMR5.3 million for serious accidents involving material damage, and OMR6.2 million for serious accidents involving injuries and medical treatment expenses, while the value of claims relating to fatalities amounted to approximately OMR1 million. **>A2**

OMAN

Campaign against
human trafficking

1

The National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking launched the national awareness campaign ‘Aman 2’ on Sunday in Salalah under the slogan “Awareness is Everyone’s Right”. The campaign aims to raise community awareness. **>A2**

OMAN

Local content in road
projects rises

2

The total value of local content in road projects implemented by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology exceeded OMR200 million. **>A5**

MARKET

Board of Directors of
CBO holds meeting

3

The Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) held its third meeting for 2026 on Sunday, at the Bank’s headquarters in Muscat Governorate. **>B1**

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COMMENTARY

Youth in Mind: Listening for Success

How many times were you told during a conversation at home, in the workplace, or at social gatherings, “Just listen to me, please”? Go ahead, reflect and ask yourself: “Am I an effective listener?”

Find out whether you are an effective listener or if you are simply at the beginning of your journey to master this essential habit. Wherever you currently stand in your quest to acquire this skill, there is no need to panic. After all, listening was never taught to us not in schools or universities, nor during our onboarding at work. The good news is that listening, much like any soft skill you have already mastered, can be acquired and developed with intentional practice.

As the saying goes, it is better late than never. You can safely add learning how to be an effective listener to the very top of your priorities, because it is truly the gateway to lasting success. Effective listening empowers you to understand, think, analyze, and respond in an apt manner. Such a skill enriches every con-

versation you have and allows you to connect deeply with those around you.

My friend Saeed often grumbles that when he talks to others, he struggles to control his wandering mind. While listening, he keeps nodding his head or frequently utters the word “aha” just to make people feel he is paying attention. But the truth is, he is merely hearing the sounds they utter while his own thoughts are miles away.

When he leaves the room, he can rarely recall anything of substance that was shared. Saeed often chastises himself for such a poor listening habit. As he walks down memory lane, he recalls that this shortcoming has cost him the trust of many people, exacting a high toll across his home, workplace, and social circles. Such frustrations finally forced him to pause, reflect, and ask, “Until when will I carry on like this?”

As days passed, he realized that remaining complacent would trap him forever within his comfort zone. To escape this bleak reality, he made honing his



listening skill one of his SMART goals and walked the extra mile to make it a tangible reality.

In his seminal book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Dr. Stephen R. Covey identified listening as a crucial habit that sets effective individuals apart. As he clearly highlighted in Habit Five, we must “seek first to understand, then to be understood.” Covey stated, “If I were to summarize in one sentence the single most important principle I have learned in the field of interpersonal relations, it would be this: Seek first to understand,

then to be understood.”

As our youth chart their course in life, they should be aware that mastering the art of listening is their gateway toward becoming highly effective and truly talented cadres. Whether they are studying, volunteering, job hunting, or sitting in job interviews, mastering empathic listening will profoundly shape the quality of their lives.

As they step into the corporate world, listening often becomes a make or break factor for their success. They should celebrate every single day as a new op-

portunity to sharpen the saw of their listening skills. Diligence is required whether they are attending an onboarding program, a business meeting, a team-building exercise, or a professional training session.

Undoubtedly, listening intently during a client call or extending a gesture of genuine, face to face empathy will help them curate the exact customer experience needed to positively impact the bottom line.

As Ken Blanchard vividly noted, “feedback is the breakfast of champions.” Our youth should warmly embrace the habit of seeking feedback on their performance from line managers, colleagues, and clients alike, accepting what these reflections mirror back to them as a gift to elevate their performance to greater heights. One golden opportunity for such growth is the annual performance appraisal conversation. Furthermore, resolving conflicts, whether in the workplace or on the personal front, requires listening of the highest order to successfully reach a true win-win solution.

In his book *Sometimes You Win, Sometimes You Learn* and his broader works on connection, John Maxwell stresses that anyone can learn how to communicate and connect in an appealing way that leaves a memorable, positive impression. He identifies principles such as finding common ground, keeping communication simple, capturing interest, inspiring others, and staying authentic as a roadmap to purpose. A close look at this philosophy inevitably places listening right at center stage.

Finally, Peter Drucker, the father of modern management, famously reminded us that “the most important thing in communication is hearing what isn’t said.” This serves as a sincere, thought provoking message for our youth and future leaders to reflect upon as they diligently hone their craft. It is a heartfelt call for them to celebrate the gift of human connection and embrace a mission of listening for success.

An Omani writer focusing on youth development and cultural issues.

Campaign against human trafficking ‘Aman 2’ launched

The campaign aims to raise community awareness of the dangers of this crime, promote a culture of prevention, and support and empower victims



SALALAH: The National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking launched the national awareness campaign ‘Aman 2’ on Sunday in Salalah under the slogan “Awareness is Everyone’s Right.”

The campaign aims to raise community awareness of the dangers of this crime, promote a culture of prevention, and support and empower victims.

The national campaign ‘Aman 2’ will run for a month and includes a range of awareness programmes, events, and activities targeting various segments of society.

It seeks to enhance understanding of human trafficking indicators, prevention methods, and reporting and assistance channels, thereby contributing to raising community awareness and strengthening national efforts to combat this crime.

The launch ceremony was held under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al

Said, Governor of Dhofar, in the presence of Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs and Chairman of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking.

The ceremony featured a visual presentation showcasing the National Committee’s efforts in raising awareness of the dangers of human trafficking, introducing prevention and protection mechanisms, and highlighting the key initiatives and programs implemented by the Committee to enhance community awareness and protect human rights and dignity.

The ceremony also witnessed the inauguration of the “Wall of Hope,” an electronic system accessible to all, allowing individuals to write motivational and supportive messages for victims of human trafficking.

These messages are translated into several languages and conveyed to the Protection House, thereby contributing to providing moral support to victims and enhancing their sense of safety

and hope. The launch ceremony was attended by several members of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking, along with a number of officials, specialists, and representatives of relevant entities and institutions.

The Sultanate of Oman continues its efforts to combat human trafficking and mitigate its risks through an integrated national framework based on prevention, awareness, protection, and legal prosecution, while enhancing cooperation and coordination among relevant authorities and providing care and protection for victims and safeguarding their rights and dignity.

The national campaign ‘Aman 2’ represents a continuation of these efforts by enhancing community awareness of the dangers of human trafficking and prevention methods, and instilling the principle that protecting human beings is a shared responsibility and that awareness constitutes one of the fundamental pillars in addressing this crime. -**ONA**

Call for expeditious justice at Supreme Court meeting

MUSCAT: The General Assembly of the Supreme Court held its first meeting for the 2026/2027 judicial year on Sunday, chaired by Sayyid Khalifa Said Al Buisaidi, Chairman of the Supreme Court, in the presence of the Vice Chairmen of the Supreme Court, the judges of the Supreme Court, and members of the Public Prosecution.

At the outset of the meeting, the Chairman of the Supreme Court commended the achievements of the preceding judicial year at both the judicial and administrative levels, noting that the adjudication rate for pending appeals in certain circuits reached 100 percent.

He expressed his aspiration that the new judicial year would witness further accomplishments in pursuit of expeditious justice that consolidates the rule of law. He affirmed that the Supreme Judicial Council adopts judicial practices that contribute to the



Marked increase in the total number of traffic accidents

< FROM A1 These indicators reflect a marked increase in the total number of traffic accidents during the second quarter of the year, accompanied by growth in the number and financial value of claims. The total number of accidents rose by 14.8 percent, the number of claims increased by 7.2 percent, and the total value of claims rose by 19 percent.

The data also reveal a disparity among types of accidents, with an increase in claims for



minor accidents and for injuries and medical expenses, against a decline in claims for serious accidents involving material dam-

ing of the Supreme Court.

During the past judicial year, the Supreme Court recorded an adjudication rate of 87 percent, having issued rulings in 5,803 cases out of 6,650 pending cases, while some of its circuits achieved adjudication rates of 100 percent, reflecting stability in legal principles and efficiency in resolving the appeals brought before it. -**ONA**

STRAIT OF HORMUZ,

Oman reaffirms its commitment to navigation safety

< FROM A1 The minister said: “Our region witnessed, at the beginning of this year, a war that could have been avoided. Subsequent events have shown that the escalation has extended to threaten the security of the countries of the region, and paralyse navigation and trade through the vital Strait of Hormuz, affecting energy security, price stability, and confidence in the current international order.”

He asserted that the Sultanate of Oman once again reaffirms its steadfast commitment to continuing its efforts aimed at safeguarding navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, in accordance with the principles of international law and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

It also calls upon all parties to cooperate with Oman in these efforts aimed at observing and respecting the interests of all those

who benefit from the transit passages in the Strait of Hormuz.

The Foreign Minister added: “My country also renews its solidarity with all its neighboring countries, including the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, in the legitimate measures they take to maintain their security, and protect their sovereignty and safeguard their territorial integrity.”

He said: “At the same time, we call upon all concerned parties to settle their outstanding disputes, through pursuing a policy of self-restraint and far-sightedness and engaging in dialogue, to reach consensual political solutions and sustainable understandings for the benefit of all.”

The minister stressed that the Government of the Sultanate of Oman renews its support for finding a political solution to the crisis in Yemen, one that preserves

the unity, stability, and territorial integrity of that historic country, meets the aspirations of the brotherly Yemeni people in all their components, and puts Yemen on the path of reconstruction, development, and prosperity.

He noted that in this context, we renew our call for all parties to respond and cooperate with one another in order to reach a just settlement to this crisis, one that preserves for the Yemeni people their rights, dignity, independence, and territorial integrity, and their secure relations with neighboring states in the region.

The Foreign Minister said: “While the Sultanate of Oman reaffirms its firm rejection of the ongoing Israeli attacks, which have affected numerous Arab states, it also expresses its condemnation of the crimes of the Israeli occupation and its increasing violations against the Palestinian people,

which have compounded their suffering in their pursuit of obtaining their legitimate rights and liberating their land in accordance with the borders of June 4, 1967, based on the two-state solution and the relevant United Nations resolutions.”

He pointed out that the Sultanate of Oman launched the Muscat Plan to counter hate speech, genocide, and the crimes of incitement thereto, through an initiative inaugurated by His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with broad international participation here at United Nations Headquarters in New York on the eleventh of last June.

The minister explained that building on this approach, the city of Muscat will host, next November, an event marking the International Day for Tolerance, as part of a path we hope will open horizons for further initiatives and part-

nerships, in cooperation with the international community and the United Nations.

He reaffirmed that the Sultanate of Oman attaches firm importance to sustainable development and its goals, believing that development is indeed an inherent right for all. So, the government of my country continues to implement its development plans and programs within the framework of Oman Vision 2040.

It also continues to empower women’s active participation and contribution to the development process and decision-making, affirming that they are part of building and sustaining development process and its sustainability, rather than a separate goal.

Therefore, the allocation of eleven permanent and elected seats for women in the Omani Shura Council comes within this framework.

He added that in the environmental field, the Sultanate of Oman continues its efforts to implement its national strategy towards transition to a low-carbon economy, through a broad package of projects and initiatives in renewable energy, transport, industry, and sustainable cities, to support national efforts to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

In conclusion, the Foreign Minister renewed thanks and appreciation to António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for his tireless and courageous efforts to uphold the word of truth and justice, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international law.

He affirmed Oman’s support and cooperation with the United Nations, in the pursuit of achieving these lofty goals and purposes, to reach a world that is more secure, stable, and prosperous. -**ONA**

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MEETINGS

Sayyid Badr holds talks with Canadian counterpart

NEW YORK: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister held a meeting with Anita Anand, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, during which they reviewed ways to advance the understandings reached during their recent joint consultations and communications. This took place on the sidelines of their participation in the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The two sides discussed leveraging the memorandum of understanding on political consultations to establish regular dialogue, keep pace with opportunities for cooperation in energy, critical minerals, and higher education, and encourage trade and investment ties between the two countries.

The meeting addressed developments in the region and ongoing communications aimed at supporting de-escalation, overcoming obstacles to political solutions, protecting civilians, and ensuring the uninterrupted flow of international navigation and trade, in a manner that reinforces the foundations of regional and international security and stability.

The Foreign Minister also held discussions with Dr. Khalilur Rahman, President of the



81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, at the Organisation's headquarters in New York, on the priorities of the current session and ways to build a broader consensus among member states that supports the United Nations' capacity to address interconnected crises and enhances the role of peaceful solutions in addressing international issues.

The Foreign Minister affirmed the Sultanate of Oman's support for the efforts of the General Assembly presidency to restore

confidence in international cooperation and to develop the performance of the UN system in a manner that upholds the principles of the Charter and responds to the needs of States and the aspirations of their peoples.

The meeting also addressed the contribution of dialogue and preventive diplomacy to conflict reduction, and the importance of linking peacebuilding efforts with the achievement of sustainable development, thereby entrenching broader and more enduring stability. -OMA

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Register for student allowances, urges Social Protection Fund

Eligibility for monthly allowances is based on a set of criteria that consider the social and economic conditions of the family, the distance between the student's residence and the educational institution



MUSCAT: The Social Protection Fund affirmed that registration for the monthly allowances service for students under the internal scholarship system covers all students, whether current students enrolled in private universities and colleges within the Sultanate of Oman, including those currently receiving monthly allowances, or new students whose data is available with their educational institutions.

The Fund explained in a statement that everyone is required to

complete registration procedures through the electronic service.

It noted that the importance of registration stems from the need to update and unify beneficiary data, verify their eligibility in accordance with the approved criteria, and link their personal, educational, and bank account data within an integrated electronic system, thereby enhancing the accuracy of eligibility and disbursement procedures and streamlining procedures for the student.

It stated that a current student's

receipt of the allowance during the previous period does not obviate the need for registration, as this step constitutes an essential part of updating data and verifying continued fulfillment of eligibility conditions.

Meanwhile, registration by new students enables the completion of verification procedures and the inclusion of eligible students among them in disbursement procedures.

The project embodies a model of institutional integration, with the Social Protection Fund working in

coordination with the Ministry of Education, the National Records Centre of the Royal Oman Police, and relevant entities, leveraging electronic linkage to verify the data to determine eligibility.

This integration reflects a trend toward building a more interconnected and efficient system in which the relevant entities exchange the necessary data within approved frameworks, thereby reducing the procedures borne by the beneficiary and enhancing the accuracy and speed of service delivery.

The project thus affirms the importance of institutional partnership in serving the community, as reaching and supporting the student is not tied to a single entity, but rather to a system in which roles are integrated to serve the beneficiary and facilitate access to entitlements.

Within the framework of developing the beneficiary experience, the Fund has made registration for the monthly allowances service available electronically, without the need to visit the Fund's offices, as the student can complete registration procedures from their location and at a time that suits them.

Eligibility for monthly allowances is based on a set of approved criteria that consider the social and economic circumstances of the family, in addition to the distance between the student's place of residence and the educational institution.

These criteria aim to direct allowances to eligible students according to clear and unified foundations, thereby enhancing fairness in eligibility and accommodating differences in circumstances among students and their families.

The electronic system also enables automatic verification of the student's data and fulfillment of conditions, thereby enhancing clarity in eligibility procedures and enabling the student to know the outcome of their application.

The monthly allowances project for internal scholarship students represents one of the pathways through which social protection integrates with education and empowerment.

Supporting the eligible student contributes to alleviating part of the burdens associated with continuing education and enhances their ability to persevere in their educational journey.

The project also reflects a broader concept of social protection based on supporting the individual at various stages of life and enhancing their capacity to continue, participate, and be empowered, with its impact extending to the family and the community.

The Social Protection Fund, in cooperation with its partners, continues to develop working mechanisms and improve verification and disbursement procedures, thereby enhancing institutional integration and community partnership, placing the beneficiary at the heart of the service, and employing digital solutions to facilitate access to entitlements.

The Fund called upon all internal scholarship students, both current and new, to complete electronic registration, verify the accuracy of their personal and educational data, ensure that their phone number is linked to their civil number, and that an activated bank account is available to complete the application procedures. -ONA

IN ABU DHABI

Oman participates in UN meeting on crime prevention

ABU DHABI: The Sultanate of Oman participated in the proceedings of the 15th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in the UAE capital, Abu Dhabi, from 26 September to 1 October 2026.

The event is held under the theme "Accelerating Action in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Protecting People, the Planet and Achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in the Digital Age."

The Sultanate of Oman's delegation was headed by Nasr bin Khamis Al Sawai, the Attorney General and Head of the Government (National) Experts Team.

The Attorney General delivered the Sultanate of Oman's address, in which he addressed the importance of developing innovative, evidence-based strategies for crime prevention, strengthening criminal justice systems to ensure the rule of law and the protection of human rights, and keeping pace with the challenges arising from



evolving criminal patterns, particularly organised crimes and cybercrimes.

He affirmed the necessity of employing modern technologies and artificial intelligence responsibly within the criminal justice system, and of enhancing international cooperation and partnerships and exchanging expertise to confront cross-border crimes.

This participation comes within

the framework of the Sultanate of Oman's keenness to contribute to international efforts aimed at strengthening the criminal justice system, entrenching the rule of law, achieving security, stability and sustainable development, and safeguarding rights and freedoms, foremost among them the right to life, human dignity, a secure life and the inviolability of private life. -ONA

LIST IS DIVERSE

Tax Authority applies zero rate VAT on food items

<FROM A1 Under this decision, the previous Decision No. (65/2021) and all provisions conflicting with its new provisions shall be repealed.

The second decision comes as a continuation of national efforts aimed at supporting the health sector and providing medical and pharmaceutical supplies and products at appropriate prices for patients and consumers.

The decision provides for subjecting supplies of medicines, herbal medicines, biological and health preparations, foods for medical uses, and medical equipment to value-added tax at a zero percent rate, provided that a release permit is issued therefor by the Ministry of Health in accordance with the approved customs heading.

The products covered in the annex include antibiotics, hormones, vaccines, blood serums, infant foods, foods designated for medical conditions, medical so-



lutions, oxygen gas, dental products, as well as smoking cessation products such as patches and sprays. This decision replaces the previous Decision No. (59/2021) in order to unify the regulatory frameworks.

The third decision came in support of the agricultural and animal sector and to alleviate costs on breeders and companies operating in this field. The decision provides for subjecting supplies of veterinary medicines and medical equipment specified in the annex to the decision to value-

added tax at a zero percent rate, whenever a release permit is issued therefor by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in accordance with their customs codes.

The covered list is diverse, encompassing veterinary vaccines and serums, biological toxins, antibiotics such as penicillin and streptomycin, vitamins, minerals, and nutritional supplements, in addition to solutions, gel preparations, and experimental instruments used in veterinary examinations and procedures.

The Tax Authority affirmed that the goods and products covered by the three decisions are specified in the annexes attached thereto in accordance with the unified customs tariff codes, thereby contributing to clarity regarding the scope of goods subject to the zero percent rate and facilitating the implementation of the decisions.

These decisions shall enter into force as of 1 October 2026. -ONA

IN FOOD SECURITY SECTOR

RAM launches Leadership Development Programme

MUSCAT: The Royal Academy of Management, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, has launched the National Leadership Development Programme in the Food Security Sector. The move aims to reinforce national efforts to build a sustainable and resilient food security system.

The programme launching ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and aims to develop and equip Omani leaders capable of leading this vital sector and enhancing its efficiency.

The programme is a strategic initiative focused on developing leaders involved in the national food security agenda and enabling them to adopt a strategic perspective that goes beyond the traditional concept of self-sufficiency. It seeks to build a more resilient and sustainable model based on anticipating risks, diversifying supply sources, and strengthening integration across sectors and stakeholders within the food security ecosystem.

The programme targets 35 leaders from the government sector, government-owned companies, the private sector, academic and



research institutions, the banking sector, and civil society associations. Participants are required to have a minimum of 12 years of professional experience, including at least five years in leadership positions, and will be selected according to clear and rigorous criteria.

Dr. Fathiya Abdullah Al Rashdi, Assistant President for Programmes at the Royal Academy of Management, said that the programme represents a distinctive

step towards preparing national leaders who can respond effectively to the rapid shifts and developments within the sector.

She added: "By developing capabilities in strategic thinking, risk anticipation, decision-making and building effective partnerships, we are strengthening the readiness of the food security ecosystem and transforming challenges into sustainable opportunities for growth."

Dr. Masoud Sulaiman Al Azri,

Director General of Agricultural and Fisheries Marketing at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, said that the programme marks an important step in developing national leaders equipped to navigate the evolving landscape and challenges of the food security sector, while strengthening its resilience and long-term sustainability.

He added that the next phase calls for closer collaboration

across sectors and the strategic adoption of innovation, emerging technologies and artificial intelligence to enhance operational efficiency and reinforce the sector's capacity to deliver Oman's national food security objectives.

Maha Mohammed Al Habsi, Programme Supervisor, explained that the learning journey has been designed to combine theoretical knowledge with practical application, enabling participants to translate strategic concepts into field-based practice.

She said: "We have ensured that participants experience an integrated journey that combines dialogue, immersion and collaborative work, helping them develop practical solutions to existing challenges and strengthen their ability to lead the sector's future projects."

The programme is structured around three key dimensions: a strategic and intellectual dimension focused on reframing and building resilience; an investment and development dimension that strengthens investment thinking and the ability to balance national priorities with economic viability; and a field-based and integrative dimension focused on practical application, execution leadership

and coordination across sectors.

The three-month learning journey comprises three learning modules, alongside applied field visits to key sites linked to the food security ecosystem, dialogue sessions with senior officials, decision-makers, and local and international experts, as well as a collaborative applied project through which participants will address one of the sector's key challenges.

The programme covers nine integrated strategic themes: strategic reframing; investment discipline; strengthening competitive advantage; value and supply chains; immersion and field application; emerging technologies and innovation; governance and institutional integration; international expansion and partnerships; and strategic reserves and food health.

Through this integrated journey, the programme aims to enable participating leaders to develop a shared strategic language, formulate attractive investment opportunities, identify Oman's competitive advantages, address vulnerabilities in supply chains, and lead innovation and digital transformation—contributing to the advancement of national food security towards greater sustainability and efficiency. -ONA

COMMENTARY

Real life is not a Fashion Show

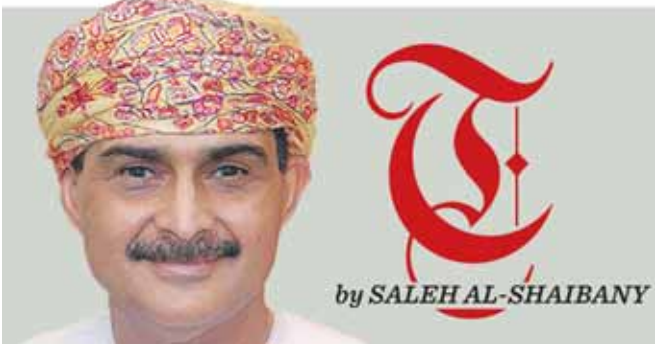
The fashion show in Muscat was a revelation in many ways. The models, adorned in diamonds, each one the size of a peanut, walked elegantly on the catwalk. As I watched them, I wondered if they ever eat.

To them, lunch is a single leaf of lettuce and dinner just a strip of carrot. They were painfully thin but accepted as beautiful young women by the audience. I guess the pressure of staying on top of their game is immense. They are paid well, sleep little and eat less. As they paraded themselves, I wondered why I was there without an escort. All the tables around had men sitting next to their partners.

Why and how the heck had my wife let me go alone, I don't know. I was sitting next to an old couple, who glanced at me from time to time and probably wondered if I had gate-crashed. Other couples looked curiously at me and it made me feel extremely uncomfortable.

I forced myself to look at the catwalk and soon I was mesmerised by a dozen bony beauties and the dazzle of the diamonds. When the music faded and the lights got brighter, the models walked to each table for us to get a good look at the displayed resources. The old gentleman sitting next to me gave a giggle that annoyed his wife. The second elderly man on my right had his fork frozen half way to his mouth.

I wished the girls would move away quickly to prevent a couple of ancient gentlemen



from having a heart attack. The younger men had the evening of their lives if the expression on their faces was any indication. Although I was disappointed my wife was not sitting with me, I was slightly relieved my wallet would not be among the casualties of the evening.

The organisers don't pay all the expenses and the trappings that come with the first class hotel to just lavishly feed the men and let their eyes feast on delicate finery. Men have the inclination of not getting anything free when women get together. They eventually pay for it and they know it. When the show was over, the girls walked out of the ballroom and left us to tackle the food. They wouldn't eat the lamb chops and the chocolate fudge with us.

To keep their figure immaculate, they would go for a cold salad. I don't mean to be cruel. I also do not feel sorry for them. I am sure they enjoy their chosen career like we all do. Except that models like them are now becoming a huge influence on younger girls.

It is obviously a hard act to follow. Some mothers, I am afraid, encourage the wafer-thin figures in their daughters. They say their girls find suitors quickly that way, as if they are in a hurry to get rid of them. It would also be very helpful to their careers as well.

I would be a hypocrite if I don't admit that there is some truth in it. A good proportion of these young girls do end up having both medical and psychological problems.

They can't all be models, get the job of their dreams or end up marrying Prince Charming. If experience is any guide, we all know a very small proportion of them maintain the same weight after marriage. Some of the men end up feeling cheated — the featherweight beauties they tied the knot with have ballooned out of proportion. Mothers would feel their job is done but daughters would have to cope with abusing husbands the rest of their lives.

Real life is no fashion show because the catwalk is much longer than the one models walk on in the five-star hotels.

Labour Ministry campaign promotes occupational safety

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour on Sunday held a ceremony to mark the conclusion of "Safe Summer 2026" campaign, which aimed to raise public awareness about the risks of exposure to heat at worksites during the summer months and to enhance compliance with occupational safety and health standards.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of Khalid bin Salim Al Ghammari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour for Labour Affairs.

Hussain bin Ali Al Lawati, Director General of Labour Welfare at the Ministry of Labour, said that the campaign was in line with the Sultanate of Oman's national and institutional policy to promote occupational safety and health and to address any risks linked to working conditions during the summer season.

Al Lawati pointed out that the Ministry of Labour keeps developing systems, regulations and decisions related to occupational safety and health. The Ministry also monitors private sector compliance with preventive measures and means to address challenges within work environments, he added.

He explained that, during the current campaign period, the Ministry of Labour received more than 1,000 applications for mid-day work permits. The applica-



tions were checked to ensure compliance with occupational safety requirements, said Al Lawati, noting that the Ministry approved about 79 percent of those applications.

Al Lawati affirmed that the teams of the Ministry conducted field visits to concession areas to verify that work establishments adhere to permit terms and worker protection requirements.

He added that the Labour Ministry's field teams laid emphasis on compliance with regulations

that prohibit working during certain hours, including mid-day hours during the summer months. He observed that the visits showed that adherence to regulations related to risks associated with high temperatures and direct sun exposure exceeded 80 percent.

The campaign included organizing workshops and programmes and distributing leaflets to raise public awareness about heat-related risks, in addition to the implementation of a programme codenamed "Basma" (Imprint) in schools to foster occupational safety standards at an early age.

Al Lawati said that, over the next stage, the Ministry will focus on the use of modern technologies and international practices to enhance the aptitude of work establishments to address challenges linked to climate change and high temperatures. -ONA

Local content in road projects tops OMR200mn



Approximately 1,500 Omanis are employed in road projects under implementation



fested, given their multiple components and their connection to a range of economic, industrial, and service activities.

He indicated that approximately 1,500 Omanis are employed in road projects under implementation in direct jobs linked to these projects.

He affirmed that the participation of national competencies is not limited to providing job opportunities, but extends to developing their skills and assigning them substantive responsibilities in the fields of supervision, implementation, and project management, thereby enhancing their expertise and their ability to assume more specialised roles in the future.

He added that approximately 70 percent of the materials used in road projects are manufactured in the Sultanate of Oman, with a value reaching OMR 80 million by the end of the first half of 2026.

Strengthening supply chains

He noted that increasing reliance on national products, provided they meet the technical requirements and approved specifications, contributes to supporting local industry, providing sustainable demand for Omani products, and strengthening supply chains linked to the construction and infrastructure sector.

He stated that more than 95 percent of goods used in road projects are purchased from the local market, whether directly or through local suppliers and small and medium enterprises.

He explained that directing purchases to the local market expands the base of beneficiaries from project expenditure and supports institutions operating in the fields of supply, services, and ancillary works.

He noted that the value of sub-contracts awarded to small and

medium enterprises within the contracts of ongoing road projects exceeded OMR50 million by the end of the first half of 2026, at a rate exceeding 10 percent.

He affirmed that awarding these works enables national institutions to develop their technical, administrative, and financial capabilities, build a track record and executive experience, and invest in equipment and technologies, thereby enhancing their competitiveness and capacity to enter larger projects in the future.

He affirmed that the measurement of local content in road projects is based on a set of indicators related to employment, supply, the use of national products, local procurement, and the award of works to Omani institutions. He noted that the importance of these indicators lies in measuring the economic impact of projects in a manner that goes beyond the volume of direct expenditure.

He indicated that Sultan Faisal bin Turki Road project in Musandam Governorate provides a model of the role played by transport projects in supporting development and empowering national competencies, explaining that the investment value of the project exceeds OMR151 million.

He noted that the project is being implemented in a mountainous environment with engineering and executive challenges, and provides a practical field for developing national expertise in dealing with projects of a complex technical nature, thereby contributing to the accumulation of local knowledge and experience in the roads sector.

He explained that the project has contributed to reducing travel time from approximately two and a half hours to about 55 minutes, thereby enhancing ease of movement and access to services, supporting the movement of individuals and goods, and contributing to stimulating economic and tourism activity in the governorate.

He added that achieving a 100 percent Omanisation rate in the positions of the consultant supervising the Diba-Lima package reflects the Ministry's approach toward empowering national competencies and assigning them professional and technical responsibilities. -ONA

Public Tender Advertisement for the Sale of Heavy Equipment, Vehicles, Light Equipment, Generators and Other Assets

Assets Offered for Sale on an "As Is, Where Is" Basis

Al Watanyiah United Engineering and Contracting Co. LLC hereby announce the public tenders listed below for the sale of a range of heavy equipment, vehicles, light equipment, generators, scaffolding, household appliances, electrical transformers and other assets. Bidders may purchase the Tender Documents and submit bids for any one or more of the tenders listed below.

Tender Documents are available at the Company's Head Office in Ghala Industrial Area from 28 September 2026 to 11 October 2026 during official working days, from 8:00 AM- 5:00PM, upon payment of the applicable Tender Fee into the Company's Bank Dhofar Account No. 01040605344006, IBAN: OM08025001040605344006. The Tender Documents will be issued upon payment of the applicable Tender Fee.

S. No.	Tender No.	Description	Location	Tender Fee Inc. VAT %5 (ـ.ع)	Earnest Money Deposit (ـ.ع)	Period for purchase of Tender	Last date for submission of offer
1	AW/T/ PH4/01/ 2026	Sale of 14 units of used heavy equipment and vehicles, including a crawler dozer, excavator, wheel loaders, tipper trucks, a water tanker truck and a crane-mounted truck.	Ghala / Barka Yard	150/-	10% of total bid value incl. VAT	28/09/2026 To 11/10/2026	20/10/2026 5:00 PM
2	AW/T/ PH4/02/ 2026	Sale of 39 used light and miscellaneous vehicles, including a 3-ton truck, buses, pickups, a fuel tanker truck, small water tankers, saloon cars and station wagons.	Ghala / Barka Yard	50/-	10% of total bid value incl. VAT	28/09/2026 To 11/10/2026	20/10/2026 5:00 PM
3	AW/T/ PH4/03/ 2026	Sale of 145 units of used light and construction equipment, including 3-ton tandem rollers, air compressors, asphalt cutters, bar-bending and bar-cutting machines, concrete mixers and vibrators, dumpers, skid-steer loaders, tower hoists, lighting towers and other equipment.	Ghala / Barka Yard	50/-	10% of total bid value incl. VAT	28/09/2026 To 11/10/2026	20/10/2026 5:00 PM
4	AW/T/ PH4/04/ 2026	Sale of 33 used electrical generators of various capacities ranging from 30 kVA to 250 kVA.	Ghala / Barka Yard	25/-	10% of total bid value incl. VAT	28/09/2026 To 11/10/2026	20/10/2026 5:00 PM
5	AW/T/ PH4/05/ 2026	Sale of used scaffolding, household appliances, electrical transformers and other assets.	Ghala / Barka Yard	50/-	10% of total bid value incl. VAT	28/09/2026 To 11/10/2026	20/10/2026 5:00 PM

- Purchasers of the Tender Documents may inspect the assets at the Company's Ghala and Barka Yards during official working hours, subject to prior appointment.
- Each bid must be accompanied by an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) equivalent to 10% of the total bid value inclusive of VAT, provided as a certified cheque issued by a local bank, a bank deposit or transfer to the Company's account, or a bank guarantee issued by a local bank. Proof of any deposit or transfer must state the bidder's name and Tender Number.
- Where the EMD is provided as a bank guarantee, it must remain valid for at least 30 days from the Tender closing date. Any certified cheque must be valid for collection upon presentation. The bid and original EMD instrument, where applicable, must be deposited in the Tender Box at the reception of the Company's Head Office in Ghala, Muscat, no later than 20 October 2026 at 5:00 PM. Late bids will not be accepted.
- Tender Fees and submitted bid prices shall be inclusive of VAT. The 10% EMD shall be calculated on the total bid value inclusive of VAT. Contact: 24502581/82, Ext. 149/150; Mobile: 77228166 / 92947637.



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Proposed Construction of College of Medicine (COM) and College of Nursing (CON).

Location: Dhofar University Campus at Salalah

Dhofar university S.A.O.C, one of the leading Universities in the Sultanate of Oman and accredited nationally by Oman Academic Accreditation Authority (OAAAQA), invites bid from eligible Contractors specialized in building construction works and registered with tender Board in relevant grades in the Sultanate of Oman for the following Tenders:

Sl. No.	Tender Package	Last date for collecting Tender	Last date of Tender Submission	Tender Price (Non-Refundable)
1	COM & CON - PART 1 (Skills Lab & Simulation Center Block (CSSC), COM Deanery & Main Entrance Block, Library & Cafeteria Block)	15 Oct 2026	16 Dec 2026	250/-
2	COM & CON - PART 2 (CON Deanery & Educational Block)	15 Oct 2026	16 Dec 2026	250/-

- Tender documents can be obtained from the Purchase Department at Dhofar University, Salalah. Starting from 30 September 2026, the tender documents will be available for collection on any working day between 8.30am – 2.30pm. Site visit can also be made during the same time Or will be advised.
- Tender queries, if any, should be addressed to M/s. Al Hatmy Engineering Consultancy, Email: arup@alhatmyoman.com & alhatmysll@gmail.com with a copy to client at phase2projects@du.edu.om not later than 30 Nov. 2026.
- Tender should be submitted in envelopes and sealed with red wax. The Tender name should be written on top of the envelope containing the Tender. The exterior of the sealed envelope must not reveal the Identity of the Tenderer.
- Tenders should be addressed to Vice Chancellor - Dhofar University and to be deposited in the office of the Vice Chancellor -Dhofar University.
- Dhofar University reserves the right to not accept the lowest or any Tender received and to cancel any Tender / Tenders without assigning any reason.
- Ref. web site www.du.edu.om/ Tenders and for inquiry Pls contact - Procurement and Tendering Department - 23237055 / 23237052

IN SOHAR

Zakat Conference and Exhibition kicks off

SOHAR: The activities of the 4th Zakat Conference and Exhibition, organised by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, kicked off on Sunday in the Wilayat of Sohar, North Al Batinah Governorate.

The conference was held under the auspices of Nasser Khamis Al Jashmi, Chairman of the Tax Authority, in the presence of Dr. Mo-

ammed Said Al Maamari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, alongside a number of officials, specialists, researchers, and individuals interested in Zakat work.

The three-day conference is themed “Zakat from Governance to Sustainability: Integration Establishing Impact and Fiduciary Duty Building Trust,” with the

participation of more than 600 participants including members of Zakat committees, researchers, and specialists in Zakat affairs from nine Gulf, Arab, and international countries, alongside an elite group of experts and specialists in Sharia, economic, financial, administrative, and technical fields related to the Zakat sector.

The first day of the conference

witnessed a main panel discussion titled “Zakat and Sustainable Development: An Integrated Government Vision,” which discussed the roles of various sectors in enhancing the developmental impact of Zakat and building an integrated system contributing to transforming Zakat work into a more effective tool in achieving social and economic development. — **OMA**



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Muscat joins UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities 2026

Muscat’s participation in the network and its selection among the participating cities in the 2026 edition, represents an advanced milestone in its membership trajectory

MUSCAT: Muscat Governorate, represented by the Wilayat of Muscat Learning Cities Team, is participating in the global programme of the Global Academy of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities 2026, organised by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning in cooperation with Shanghai Open University, with the participation of representatives of learning cities from around the world.

The official list of participating

cities confirms the presence of 32 cities from countries in Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas, including Shanghai, Beijing, Turin, Dresden, Athens, Edmonton, Medellin, Nairobi, Ankara, and Abuja.

The participation of the Wilayat of Muscat in the Academy comes as an extension of its journey within the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities since joining the network in February 2024, alongside the cities of Sur and Nizwa, in a step that enhanced the Sultanate of Oman’s presence within the global system of learning cities.

Muscat’s participation in the Global Academy of the network, and its selection among the participating cities in the 2026 edition, represents an advanced milestone in its membership trajectory and an entitlement to the efforts and initiatives it has presented in the field of lifelong learning. It also offers an opportunity to transition from the joining phase to a more effective phase involving the exchange of expertise, presenting local experiences, and benefiting from international practices in the fields of sustainable urban development and planning, health and quality of life, digital transformation, sustainability, and enhancing community participation.

On another front, the participation gains additional importance given Muscat’s status as an

important hub for economic and commercial activity, alongside its ancient historical extension and its role that evolved over centuries from an important port and maritime station on trade routes in the Indian Ocean to a modern capital combining historical legacy with contemporary urban development requirements.

Muscat’s participation journey in the Academy began prior to arriving in Shanghai through an integrated preparatory and training pathway combining e-learning, practical application, and experience exchange among participating cities, leading up to the in-person phase in the Chinese city of Shanghai, followed by preparing action plans and following up on their implementation in subsequent stages.

These stages culminate in the participation of the Muscat team

in the in-person program of the Academy in Shanghai during the month of October, where participants transition from online training to direct interaction, exchanging experiences and practices among cities, participating in sessions, workshops, and field visits, alongside presenting their cities’ experiences and working on developing applicable action plans to benefit from after the program ends.

During these stages, the participation of city representatives was not limited to attending lectures, but included discussions, experience exchange, teamwork, executing practical tasks and activities, and linking the program’s themes to the local challenges and priorities of each city, leading to the development of an applicable strategic action plan within the city’s context. The Academy’s frame-

work emphasizes that participants are required to actively participate in both online and in-person sessions, contribute to outcomes at the city level, and follow up on plan implementation after the program concludes.

The city of Muscat participates in the Academy through a multi-sectoral team comprising four representatives from different entities and sectors, including Muscat Governorate, Muscat Municipality, the Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, and the health sector, alongside representation of the local community in the Wilayat of Muscat, reflecting the learning cities approach based on role integration, experience exchange, and partnership among various sectors.

This participation is grounded in participatory institutional work by the Muscat Learning City Team, which comprises representatives and expertise from multiple government, academic, and community sectors, including health, environment, education, culture, tourism, social development, museums, scientific research, and civil society. The participants are supported by an executive work team tasked with monitoring and documenting events and tasks, and coordinating roles and responsibilities among relevant entities,

within an orientation aimed at governing the operations of Muscat as a learning city, unifying efforts, coordinating initiatives, and collecting and managing data and information, thereby enhancing work sustainability and benefiting from international participation outcomes by converting them into locally applicable initiatives and plans.

Among the most prominent milestones of Muscat’s participation in Shanghai is its selection to deliver a presentation in a session titled “Transforming Urban Health Through Lifelong Learning,” scheduled to be held on 14 October 2026, alongside a number of international cities participating in this thematic track. During the session, the Muscat team will review the local experience in urban health and its relation to lifelong learning by highlighting a number of experiences, practices, and initiatives associated with the Wilayat of Muscat and related entities, and their contributions to promoting health awareness, encouraging healthy lifestyles, and utilizing urban facilities and spaces supporting physical activity and quality of life, alongside highlighting the role of integration among the health, municipal, and community sectors in supporting the building of a healthier and more sustainable city. — **OMA**

Hawraa Fida Hussain Al Lawati Wins Industry Leader of the Year – Real Estate Award



Hawraa Fida Hussain Al Lawati, Vice President – Customer Experience at Al Mouj Muscat, was felicitated with the ‘The Origin Industry Leader of the Year – Real Estate 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 passionate advocate for customer-centricity and experience-led real estate, Hawraa has played an important role in strengthening the customer experience culture at Al Mouj Muscat. Her approach goes beyond the traditional concept of property, focusing on creating meaningful experiences and a genuine sense of belonging for residents, visitors and the wider community.

At Al Mouj Muscat, one of Oman’s leading integrated lifestyle and real estate destinations, Hawraa has championed the integration of customer insights into strategies and decision-making. Her work reflects an understanding that successful destination development is not only about creating exceptional properties, but also about building connected communities and experiences that people are proud to call home. With a professional background that bridges technology, customer experience and real estate, Hawraa has also advocated for the use of



the origin
SHE GROWS. SHE LEADS.

digital innovation to make customer journeys more seamless. Her perspective on the evolving real estate sector reflects how technology, data and human-centred thinking can come together to enhance the way people experience and interact with modern developments.

Her recognition as Industry Leader of the Year – Real Estate celebrates her leadership, customer-focused vision and contribution to enhancing experiences within Oman’s real estate and destination development sector. Through her work, Hawraa continues to demonstrate how putting people at the heart of a development can transform properties into communities and customer interactions into lasting relationships.

Hawraa also contributed to The Origin 2026 as a distinguished panellist for “Beyond Expectations: Women at the Forefront of Progress,” sharing her perspectives on leadership, resilience, innovation and creating meaningful impact 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

Oman marks Arab Agriculture Day



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman joined Arab countries in celebrating Arab Agriculture Day, which this year highlights the importance of Arab rangeland sustainability as a fundamental pillar for sustainable agricultural development and ensuring resource sustainability for future generations, underscoring the vital role rangelands play in supporting livestock, preserving natural resources, and proposal-enhancing the stability of rural and pastoral communities.

The Sultanate of Oman emphasised the importance of enhancing sustainable rangeland management in light of the growing challenges faced due to climate change, fluctuating rainfall, rising temperatures, water scarcity, land degradation, and unregulated grazing, alongside the importance of deploying modern technologies to monitor rangeland conditions and support decisions related to their management and restoration.

Eng. Mansour Hamoud Al Wadhahi, Assistant Director General for Agricultural Development at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, explained that the theme of Arab Agriculture Day this year embodies an established reality that sustainable agricultural development begins with land, water, vegetation cover, and natural resources upon which production is based, noting that rangeland sustainability is linked to natural capital, the rural economy, livestock, and resource sustainability.

He pointed out that natural rangelands represent one of the most important resources connecting humans, land, livestock, and ecosystems in the Arab world, due to the feed they provide for livestock, their role in preserving vegetation cover and soil, supporting biodiversity, and curbing land degradation and desertification, in addition to their contribution to providing sources of income and livelihoods for rural and pastoral communities.

He indicated that the Sultanate of Oman is characterised by environmental and geographical diversity that has created different pat-

terns of rangelands and pastoral systems, extending from mountain and desert environments to seasonal pastoral systems in Dhofar Governorate. He explained that attention to natural rangelands in the Sultanate of Oman stemmed from an early awareness of their importance to livestock, the environment, and local communities.

In this context, he pointed to the issuance of the Law on Rangelands and Livestock Management by Royal Decree No. 8/2003, which designated natural and cultivated rangelands as State property dedicated to public utility, assigning the competent authority the responsibilities of replanting degraded rangelands and protecting them from overgrazing, alongside updating legislative aspects through Ministerial Decision No. 1/2025 amending some provisions of the Executive Regulations of the Law on Rangelands and Livestock Management.

He touched upon the initiatives implemented by the Sultanate of Oman in the field of rangeland sustainability, including the Rangeland Resting Initiative in Dhofar Governorate, which the Sultanate of Oman launched on the sidelines of the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), held in Riyadh in December 2024, with the participation of several national and international partners.

He noted that the initiative aims to manage pastoral resources in the governorate, curb their degradation, and reclaim approximately 10,000 hectares of degraded land through regulating grazing, resting rangelands, and restoring them.

The Assistant Director General for Agricultural Development stressed the importance of transitioning in rangeland management from reacting to degradation after it occurs to proactive management based on early monitoring and forecasting. He highlighted the importance of deploying remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), satellite imagery, climate data, field monitoring, and digital maps to build databases that help identify areas most vulnerable to degradation, monitor rangeland recovery after resting, and support decisions related to grazing timing, density, and intervention zones.

He explained that rangeland sustainability is directly linked to livestock and production costs, as a decline in their productive capacity leads to higher feed costs, increased pressure on water resources, and rising production costs, in addition to impacting the ability of pastoral communities to persevere, emphasizing that rangeland restoration represents an environmental, economic, and social issue simultaneously.

He noted that estimated livestock numbers in the Sultanate of Oman reached approximately 4 million head in 2024, while local production in the same year reached around 51,000 tonnes of red meat, 241,000 tonnes of fresh milk, and 150,000 tonnes of poultry meat, indicating that these indicators reflect the importance of rangelands and livestock as a productive and economic base within the agricultural development system in Oman. — **OMA**

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

BETWEEN 2023 AND 2025

Oman’s investment in space sector rises to OMR74mn

MUSCAT: Private sector investment in Oman’s space sector rose from OMR20 million in 2023 to OMR65 million in 2024, and then to OMR74 million in 2025 – a growth rate of 270 percent compared with 2023.

The number of employees in government and private institutions in the sector increased from 152 in 2023 to 241 in 2024, and then to 400 in 2025 – a growth rate of 163 percent.

In addition, socio-economic indicators show steady growth. The number of companies operating in the space sector rose from 11 in 2023 to 20 in 2024, and then to 26 in 2025 – a growth rate of 136 percent compared with 2023.

All these indicate that the space sector in the Sultanate of Oman has developed rapidly between 2023 and 2025.

It moved from the establishment phase to the market-building phase. This shift was driven by rising private sector investment, a growing number of companies and

employees, the launch of strategic satellite projects, infrastructure development, national capacity-building programs, and a stronger international presence.

Eng. Said Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, affirmed that the sector is developing rapidly as an enabler of the digital economy. He noted that it supports economic diversification and national capacity building within the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

He explained that 2025 saw tangible progress in building the sector’s infrastructure and developing national competencies. It also saw stronger international partnerships, an improved legislative and regulatory environment, and increased investment in space applications and services.

He said the achievements represent an important step toward consolidating Oman’s position as an active partner in the global space ecosystem. They also rein-



force its role as a regional gateway for space applications and services that support sustainable development.

He emphasised that the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology will continue to implement the National Space Policy objectives in cooperation with various partners. It will also accelerate knowledge and technology transfer and enhance private sector participation to support a sustainable national space economy. According to the report

“Harvest of the National Space Program 2023–2025,” issued by the National Centre for Space, Advanced Technologies and Artificial Intelligence at the Ministry, the sector has received national attention since 2020.

Over the three years following the launch of the National Space Policy, it developed from the establishment phase to the market-building phase. This included the start of infrastructure projects, the launch of capacity-building programmes, the development of

international relations, investment attraction, economic growth stimulation, and work on legislation, regulations, and stakeholder integration.

The report indicated that about 65 percent of space projects have entered implementation under the sector’s policy and executive programme. National capacity-building programmes are also underway, along with projects related to space sovereignty, satellites, and space launch.

The National Space Programme is linked to the National Digital Economy Programme and Oman Vision 2040. It employs space applications and space data to support digital transformation, innovate smart services, and improve the efficiency of vital sectors. It also builds national capacities, empowers the private sector, and diversifies income sources.

The National Space Policy focuses primarily on terrestrial space applications. It includes 14 pivotal projects and initiatives,

along with investment and commercial opportunities that enable active private sector participation. Its pillars are capacity building, economic diversification, environment and natural resources, and sovereignty and national security.

On infrastructure, the report explained that the government has focused on developing infrastructure that ensures the building and localisation of national capabilities. It also aims to enhance business and sustainable investment opportunities and translate strategic directions into projects with developmental and economic impact.

One of the most prominent projects is the communications satellite OmanSat-1. It represents a strategic step toward consolidating Oman’s position as a regional gateway for space applications and services, and supports economic diversification and sustainable development. – OMA

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

27TH SEPTEMBER EVERY YEAR



Oman joins the world in observing World Tourism Day

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman joins the nations of the world in celebrating World Tourism Day, which falls on the twenty-seventh of September each year.

The event is observed this year under the theme “Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Re-design Tourism,” affirming the growing role of modern technologies in developing destinations, enhancing the visitor experience, raising the efficiency of the tourism sector and reinforcing its resilience in the face of change and crises.

This year’s celebration comes amid accelerating transformations in global tourism, driven by technology, artificial intelligence and data analytics, alongside shifting traveller behaviour, rising demand for authentic and sustainable experiences, and the ease of accessing information, services and bookings through digital platforms.

It likewise comes at a time when geopolitical and economic shifts have demonstrated the importance of building a tourism sector capable of contending with crises, preserving the continuity of air connectivity, diversifying markets and reinforcing traveller confidence.

The Sultanate of Oman continues to develop tourism as one of the principal economic sectors targeted under the Oman Vision 2040, drawing upon its natural, cultural and civilisational diversity and the potentials it possesses, encompassing heritage and archaeological sites, mountains, deserts and beaches, adventure, nature and cultural tourism, and conferences, incentives and sporting events tourism.

Sayyid Ibrahim bin Said Al Bussaidi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, affirmed that World Tourism Day represents an occasion to renew commitment to building a sustainable and competitive tourism sector, maximising its contribution to the national economy and broadening its developmental and social impact across the various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

The minister said that the tourism sector represents one of the principal pillars of economic diversification in the Sultanate of Oman, and that the Ministry is working to develop it according to an integrated vision that balances economic growth with the preservation of heritage, Omani



identity and culture, the protection of natural resources, and the enhancement of local communities’ benefit from the opportunities the sector provides.

He added that World Tourism Day comes this year amid accelerating digital transformations in the tourism industry, explaining that the Ministry’s approach is not confined to the use of technology in promotion, but extends to redesigning the tourist’s journey from the stage of research, planning and booking through to the visitor’s experience, movement and enjoyment of tourism services and products across the various governorates.

The minister explained that artificial intelligence and data analytics offer vast opportunities to understand markets more precisely, design programmes and experiences suited to visitors’ interests, raise the efficiency of promotional campaigns, improve the management of tourism flows, and direct investments towards the products and destinations most capable of achieving sustainable economic and social value.

He said that the sector’s success is not measured by the number of arrivals alone, but by the average length of stay, the volume of tourism spending, occupancy rates, the distribution of tourism movement across governorates and seasons, and the number of jobs and businesses the sector generates. Our goal is for tourism development to be reflected directly in the national economy and local communities.

The Minister of Heritage and Tourism noted that the coming phase will witness a greater focus on integration between promotion, air connectivity, investment, the quality of products and services, and the ease of digital booking. – OMA

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

RESERVE YOUR TABLE

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

30th September, 2026
JW Marriott Hotel Muscat

AWARD CATEGORIES

- Biodiversity Conservation Initiative
- Environment Protection Initiative
- Environmental Advocacy and Action Initiative
- Clean Energy Initiative
- Community Healthcare Initiative
- Community Education Initiative
- Specially-abled Support Initiative
- Youth Engagement Initiative
- Women Empowerment Initiative
- Financial Inclusion Initiative
- SMEs Development Initiative
- Community Development and Empowerment Initiative
- Public-Private Partnership for Community Development
- Public Engagement Initiative
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiative
- In Country Value (ICV) Initiative
- Outstanding Omanisation Achievement
- Skills Development Initiative
- Social Entrepreneurship Initiative
- Leadership in Sustainable Business Practice
- Leadership in ESG
- Leadership in ICV
- Leadership in CSR
- Social Impact Leader of the Year
- and many more ...

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

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MORE ENERGY ADDITION
US Energy Secretary Chris Wright highlighted the administration's policy focus on expanding domestic oil, natural gas, refining capacity, and grid infrastructure to sustain economic expansion and counter geopolitical disruptions.

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 7,543.59 points, down by -0.14% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.46% at 620.45 points. Oman Chromite, up 2.25%, was the top gainer while, National Detergent, down 6.64%, was the top loser.

BOD MEETING

CBO adopts new policies to strengthen banking regulatory framework



MUSCAT: The Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) held its third meeting for 2026 on Sunday, at the bank's headquarters in Muscat Governorate.

The board adopted the Policy on the Classification and Licensing of Banks and Representative Offices of Foreign Banks in the Sultanate of Oman, aimed at further strengthening the regulatory framework of the banking sector and governing classification

and licensing procedures in line with the applicable requirements and standards. It also adopted the Emergency Policy and Framework, including the related measures and procedures.

The Board approved the issuance of commemorative coins to mark Omani Women's Day, human civilizations, and a number of prominent Omani figures.

The Board also approved the financial position of the Central

Bank of Oman for the second quarter of 2026 and the budget of the College of Banking and Financial Studies for the 2026/2027 academic year.

The Board reviewed a report on the key matters discussed during its previous meetings and the actions taken thereon, in addition to a number of reports, minutes of meetings and other items on the agenda, and took the appropriate decisions thereon. -ONA

Total revenues of 3-5 star hotels in Oman top OMR156 million

NCSI data indicated an increase in the number of Omani guests by 2.7 percent, reaching 583,702 until the end of August 2026, compared to 568,370 guests during the corresponding period in 2025, representing about 43.1 percent of total rated hotel guests

MUSCAT: Revenues of 3 to 5 star hotels in the Sultanate of Oman reached approximately OMR156.54 million until the end of August 2026, compared to OMR175.84 million during the corresponding period in 2025, registering a decline of 11 percent.

The average occupancy rate in these rated hotels stood at 46.5 percent, compared to 52.9 percent during the corresponding period in 2025, a decrease of 6.4 percentage points.

Data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that the number of guests in 3 to 5 star hotels reached 1.32 million guests, down by 10.7 percent compared to 1.51 million guests during the corresponding period in 2025.

The data indicated an increase in the number of Omani guests by 2.7 percent, reaching 583,702 guests until the end of August 2026, compared to 568,370 guests during the corresponding period in 2025, representing about 43.1 percent of total rated hotel guests.



29,484 by the end of August 2025 to 12,475 by the end of August 2026. The number of African guests also declined by 2.1 percent to reach 9,698, compared to 9,904 during the corresponding period in 2025.

On a monthly level, August 2026 data showed an improvement in the activity of rated hotels compared to July 2026; the number of guests during August reached 198,394, an increase of 22.1 percent compared to 162,427 in July, while the number of guests in June stood at 135,080.

Hotel revenues rose during August 2026 to OMR18.23 million compared to OMR14.13 million in July 2026, recording a monthly growth of 29.1 percent, while June revenues reached OMR10.77 million.

Occupancy rate during August 2026 also rose to 51.4 percent, compared to 42.6 percent in July and 36 percent in June, an increase of 8.8 percentage points compared to July, reflecting an improvement in occupancy movement and hotel activity during August. -ONA

GCC-STAT



GCC tourism sector generates \$254.7 billion in economic value

MUSCAT: The total direct and indirect economic value of the tourism sector in the GCC countries rose to approximately \$254.7 billion in 2025, while the number of tourism-related jobs reached nearly 4.5 million jobs.

The "Strategic Tourism Ambition in the GCC Countries" report, issued by the GCC Statistical Centre (GCC-Stat), clarified that the Gulf tourism sector achieved progress in implementing the targets of the Gulf Strategy for Tourism 2022-2030, with the average progress rate across its six goals reaching approximately 73.8 percent through 2025.

The report identified six main goals for the strategy: increasing the number of inbound trips, direct gross domestic product (GDP) of the travel and tourism sector, inbound tourist spending, the sector's share of GDP, domestic tourist spending, and direct jobs.

The number of inbound visitors to GCC countries reached 89.9 million visitors in 2025, achieving 69.9 percent of the 2030 target of 128.7 million visitors, while inbound tourist spending rose to \$131.9 billion, achieving 70.2 per-

cent of the \$188 billion target.

Domestic tourist spending reached \$42.9 billion, achieving 87.6 percent of the 2030 target of \$49 billion, while direct GDP of the travel and tourism sector recorded \$101.7 billion, representing 69.8 percent of the 2030 target of \$145.8 billion.

The contribution of the travel and tourism sector to the GDP of GCC countries rose to 4.6 percent in 2025, achieving 70.8 percent of the 2030 target of 6.5 percent.

Total direct jobs in the sector reached 2.2 million jobs, achieving 74.7 percent of the 2030 target of approximately 2.9 million jobs.

These indicators reinforced the presence of GCC countries in global tourism, as their share of total international tourism reached 5 percent and of global tourism revenues 6.9 percent in 2025.

The report pointed out that GCC countries occupy the top six positions in the Arab world in passport strength according to the Henley Passport Index 2026, with a cumulative improvement in the ranking of Gulf passports. -ONA

REPORT

Oman exports squid worth OMR4.47 million to 19 countries in 2025

MUSCAT: In terms of foreign trade, the value of Oman's squid exports during 2025 stood at approximately OMR4.47 million exported to 19 countries around the world, according to a new report.

Vietnam topped the list of countries importing Omani squid, with a value of OMR2.12 million, followed by the People's Republic of China with a value of OMR588,930 and Malaysia with a value of OMR394,670, according to the latest data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

On the other hand, the value of the Oman's squid imports during 2025 reached approximately OMR617,468, with a total weight of 484,512 kilograms. Yemen came at the forefront of countries exporting squid to the Sultanate of Oman with a value of OMR209,409, followed by the People's Republic of China with a value of OMR209,230 and the United Arab Emirates with a value of OMR137,292.

These data highlight the pivotal role of artisanal fishing in squid landings in the Sultanate of Oman,



as well as the continued presence of Omani squid in foreign markets through its exports to a number of regional and global markets, led by Asian markets.

The NCSI data further indicated that total landed quantities of squid in the Sultanate of Oman reached approximately 14,012 tonnes during 2025.

Data showed that artisanal fish-

ing accounted for the largest share of total landed quantities of squid, with a total of 12,741 tonnes, while landed quantities via coastal fishing reached 767 tonnes, and commercial fishing 504 tonnes. Meanwhile, no squid quantities were recorded under aquaculture during the year.

At the governorate level, Al Wushta Governorate topped squid land-

ings by artisanal fishermen with a total of 4,459 tonnes, followed by Dhofar Governorate with 4,258 tonnes, then South Al Sharqiyah Governorate with 2,343 tonnes.

Quantities landed in Al Batinah Governorate (including South and North Governorates) reached 1,441 tonnes, in Muscat Governorate 155 tonnes, and in Musandam Governorate 92 tonnes. -ONA

GROWING ROLE IN EMPLOYMENT

India's tourism sector contributes 5.22% to GDP

NEW DELHI: India's tourism sector is expected to play a growing role in economic activity and employment as the country expands its digital tourism ecosystem, with the sector contributing 5.22 percent to GDP and supporting 8.46 crore jobs in 2023-24, the government said ahead of World Tourism Day 2026.

The government highlighted the growing use of digital platforms and artificial intelligence (AI) to make travel more personalised, accessible and seamless. World Tourism Day will be observed on September 27 under the theme

"Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism", placing technology at the centre of discussions around the future of the sector.

Tourism activity has also expanded sharply in recent years. Domestic tourist visits reached 428.55 crore in 2025, compared with 67.7 crore in 2021, while foreign tourist visits increased to 2.53 crore from 0.1 crore during the same period. Foreign exchange earnings from tourism rose to Rs 2,76,831 crore in 2025, from Rs 63,978 crore in 2021.

The government said digital

tools are increasingly changing how travellers discover, plan and experience destinations. India's e-Visa facility, which was available to nationals of 43 countries when introduced in 2014, has now expanded to 172 countries, with entry permitted through 88 international ports. Around 78 per cent of visas are now issued electronically, while about 95 per cent of e-Visa applications are processed within 72 hours.

The revamped Incredible India Digital Platform provides virtual experiences across cultural, heritage, adventure, gastronomic,

wellness, art and craft and rural attractions. Its AI-powered features include real-time weather updates, city exploration and access to travel services.

The Ministry of Tourism is also set to launch the National Digital Tourism Stack, an open digital public infrastructure initiative aimed at making tourism offerings more discoverable, accessible and trustworthy.

Another initiative, Dekho Apna Desh 2.0, will focus on promoting lesser-known destinations and distributing tourist footfall more evenly. -ANI

MARKET

MSX index ends lower



Oman Chromite, up 2.25%, was the top gainer while, National Detergent, down 6.64%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,543.59 points, down by -0.14% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.46% at 620.45 points. Oman Chromite, up 2.25%, was the top gainer while, National Detergent, down 6.64%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 7113 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 31.31 million, with more than 118.45 million shares changing hands. Out of 68 traded securities, 13 advanced, 30 declined, and 25 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for RO 168K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 133K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 35K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 13,613.94 points, up 0.26%. Prices of Bank Dhofar, Ahli Bank, Ominvest, United Finance, and Na-

tional Finance were up by 1.93%, 1.50%, 1.23%, 1.16%, and 0.94% respectively. Prices of Al Sharqia Investment, Sohar International Bank, Al Madina Takaful, and Bank Nizwa were down by 3.85%, 1.06%, 0.90%, and 0.64% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,838.13 points, down -0.70%. Prices of Oman Chromite were up by 2.25%. Prices of National Detergent, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Flour Mills, Al Maha Ceramics, and Gulf International Chemicals were down by 6.64%, 4.47%, 2.90%, 1.48%, and 1.43% respectively.

Services Index was down by -0.40% before closing at 2,997.17 points. Prices of Dhofar Generating, and Shell Oman Marketing were up by 1.25%, and 0.94% respectively. Prices of Muscat Desalination, Musandam Power, SMN Power Holding, OQ Gas Networks, and Sembcorp Salalah were down by 4.17%, 2.65%, 2.16%, 0.92%, and 0.77% respectively. **-United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	7,569.25	7,543.59	7,543.59	7,554.13	-10.53	-0.14
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,635.05	13,546.27	13,613.94	13,578.28	35.66	0.26
Industry Index	9,911.86	9,833.64	9,838.13	9,907.92	-69.80	-0.70
Services Index	3,012.50	2,997.17	2,997.17	3,009.25	-12.09	-0.40
MSX Shariah Index	624.42	620.36	620.45	623.34	-2.89	-0.46
MSX TR INDEX	11,735.27	11,695.50	11,695.50	11,711.83	-16.33	-0.14
FINANCIAL TR IDX	16,763.58	16,654.43	16,737.63	16,693.79	43.84	0.26
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	12,694.57	12,594.40	12,600.14	12,689.53	-89.39	-0.70
SERVICES TR IDX	4,044.86	4,024.28	4,024.28	4,040.51	-16.23	-0.40
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,291.27	1,291.27	1,291.27	1,291.27	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
118,458,787	31,314,955	7,113	39,163,594,410	13	30	25	68

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN AS ON 27/09/2026

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

OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	515,500	108,047	273	0.207	0.211	0.207	0.211	0.207	0.004	1.832	0.211	0.210	0.211	0.100	641,397,490
OM0000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	1,153,273	244,010	866	0.211	0.213	0.210	0.211	0.208	0.003	1.442	0.211	0.214	0.211	0.0001	109,945,043
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	5,200	2,079	5	0.400	0.411	0.392	0.411	0.406	0.005	1.232	0.411	0.394	0.411	0.100	461,492,959
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	115,150	9,912	2	0.987	0.987	0.987	0.987	0.986	0.001	0.987	0.987	0.986	0.987	0.100	30,963,000
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	157,274	20,901	15	0.195	0.197	0.195	0.197	0.196	0.001	0.510	0.197	0.196	0.196	0.100	140,738,049
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	153,937	75,437	64	0.488	0.492	0.488	0.490	0.488	0.002	0.410	0.490	0.490	0.490	0.100	736,713,714
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	200	58	1	0.292	0.292	0.292	0.292	0.292	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.292	0.280	0.100	3,310
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	4,420	15,169	6	3.435	3.435	3.425	3.435	3.435	0.000	0.000	3.435	3.425	3.435	0.100	308,119,500
OM0000001772	ALANWAH INVESTMENT	32,370	6,636	8	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.000	0.000	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.100	63,039,451
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	7,005	9,912	2	1.300	1.380	1.300	1.380	1.380	0.000	0.000	1.380	1.310	0.000	0.100	83,234,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	7,569,724	3,217,124	1,045	0.435	0.435	0.434	0.435	0.425	0.000	0.000	0.425	0.426	0.425	0.100	3,190,218,751
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	10,400	3,765	2	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.000	0.000	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.100	72,400,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	169,453	53,238	37	0.314	0.315	0.314	0.314	0.314	0.000	0.000	0.314	0.313	0.328	0.100	204,396,488
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	379,576	153,798	307	0.405	0.406	0.404	0.404	0.405	-0.001	-0.247	0.404	0.404	0.404	0.100	311,160,800
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	32,249	8,887	11	0.276	0.276	0.275	0.276	0.277	-0.001	-0.361	0.276	0.275	0.276	0.100	65,249,160
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SP2)	10,621,799	2,659,629	1,221	0.254	0.254	0.252	0.252	0.253	-0.001	-0.395	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.040	871,791,694
OM0000002894	ASAPPA FOODS	1,635	751	2	0.726	0.726	0.726	0.726	0.726	0.000	0.000	0.726	0.720	0.726	0.100	44,930,555
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	11,000	10,266	5	0.926	0.926	0.921	0.921	0.926	0.000	0.000	0.926	0.926	0.926	0.100	246,378,001
OM0000004925	ALBARTNAH POWER	355,256	69,608	26	0.195	0.197	0.195	0.195	0.196	-0.001	-0.510	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.100	31,603,405
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	3,100,043	4,210,166	78	1.360	1.360	1.352	1.352	1.360	-0.008	-0.588	1.352	1.352	1.450	0.100	1,010,014,000,000
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	8,512,043	4,086,644	121	0.482	0.482	0.479	0.479	0.482	-0.003	-0.622	0.479	0.479	0.479	0.010	3,832,000,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	55,025	8,583	13	0.156	0.157	0.155	0.156	0.157	-0.001	-0.637	0.156	0.155	0.156	0.100	348,964,673
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	3,820	565	2	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.149	-0.001	-0.671	0.148	0.140	0.148	0.100	23,680,000
OM0000009693	PHOENIX POWER	555,592	156,880	61	0.293	0.293	0.291	0.291	0.293	-0.002	-0.707	0.291	0.282	0.281	0.100	440,999,010
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	115,200	29,722	16	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.000	0.000	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.100	30,963,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	634,711	69,801	63	0.111	0.111	0.109	0.110	0.111	-0.001	-0.901	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	19,250,000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	25,490,324	5,550,185	1,145	0.218	0.219	0.216	0.216	0.218	-0.002	-0.917	0.216	0.216	0.217	0.100	935,414,767
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	42,284,369	7,907,192	1,141	0.188	0.189	0.186	0.186	0.188	-0.002	-1.064	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.100	1,427,737,055
OM0000003661	VOLITAMP ENERGY	376,120	69,041	52	0.186	0.186	0.182	0.182	0.184	-0.002	-1.087	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.010	182,000,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	9,690	1,753	5	0.185	0.185	0.180	0.181	0.185	-0.004	-2.162	0.181	0.181	0.199	0.100	36,134,044
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	104	34	1	0.331	0.331	0.331	0.331	0.340	-0.009	-2.647	0.331	0.331	0.342	0.100	23,299,090
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	190,849	10,254	22	0.104	0.104	0.100	0.100	0.104	-0.004	-3.846	0.102	0.100	0.102	0.100	3,900,000
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	7,013	3,436	8	0.492	0.493	0.456	0.470	0.492	-0.022	-4.472	0.475	0.475	0.489	0.100	23,660,917
Total		33	102,428,724,28	783,490	6.626											

Parallel Market

OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	250	1,125	1	4.499	4.499	4.499	4.499	4.400	0.099	2.250	4.499	0.000	4.500	1.000	16,331,370
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	1,500	305	1	0.203	0.203	0.203	0.203	0.200	0.003	1.500	0.203	0.200	0.205	0.100	563,969,046
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	10,900	878	4	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.001	0.250	0.081	0.080	0.082	0.100	18,001,050
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	1,221	909	6	0.743	0.750	0.740	0.749	0.742	0.007	0.943	0.749	0.730	0.778	0.100	71,155,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	3,860	834	2	0.220	0.220	0.215	0.215	0.213	0.002	0.939	0.215	0.215	0.220	0.100	139,899,510
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	6,324	1,138	6	0.181	0.181	0.180	0.180	0.179	0.001	0.559	0.180	0.179	0.180	0.100	106,458,610
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	371,649	118,928	53	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.319	0.001	0.313	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.100	640,877,687
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	2,000	2,400	2	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.000	1.200	1.120	1.200	0.100	60,000,000
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	1,535	358	1	0.233	0.233	0.233	0.233	0.233	0.000	0.000	0.233	0.233	0.235	0.100	4,311,629
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	161,765	24,644	19	0.152	0.155	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.000	0.000	0.152	0.151	0.152	0.100	33,440,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	44,182	6,712	5	0.151	0.152	0.151	0.152	0.152	0.000	0.000	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.100	30,853,940
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	19,771	376	1	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.190	0.175	0.190	0.100	3,800,000
OM0000004689	SHARQIAH DESALINATION	533	35	1	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.000	0.000	0.175	0.165	0.175	0.100	17,115,378
OM0000004847	OMAN REIT FUND	16,824	1,784	13	0.108	0.109	0.105	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.100	88,220,310
OM0000009507	JABAL REIF	9,145,416	932,849	5	0.107	0.108	0.102	0.108	0.108	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.102	0.108	0.100	18,752,000
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	5,000	2,810	1	0.562	0.562	0.562	0.562	0.565	-0.003	-0.531	0.562	0.560	0.560	0.100	35,104,242
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	1,994	456	2	0.229	0.229	0.228	0.228	0.230	-0.002	-0.870	0.228	0.228	0.235	0.100	7,395,376
OM0000001151	OMIFCO	5,967,583	1,382,883	275	0.232	0.234	0.229	0.229	0.232	-0.003	-1.293	0.229	0.229	0.255	0.0001	1,531,866,875
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	4,976	344	2	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.069	0.070	-0.001	-1.429	0.069	0.069	0.073	0.100	1,4



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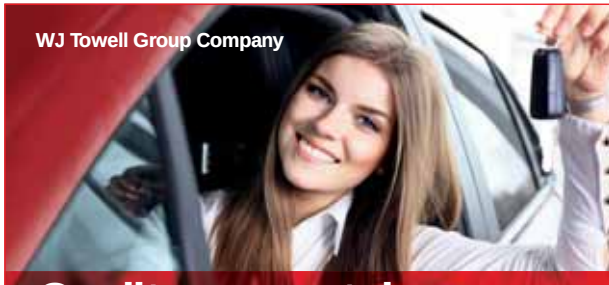
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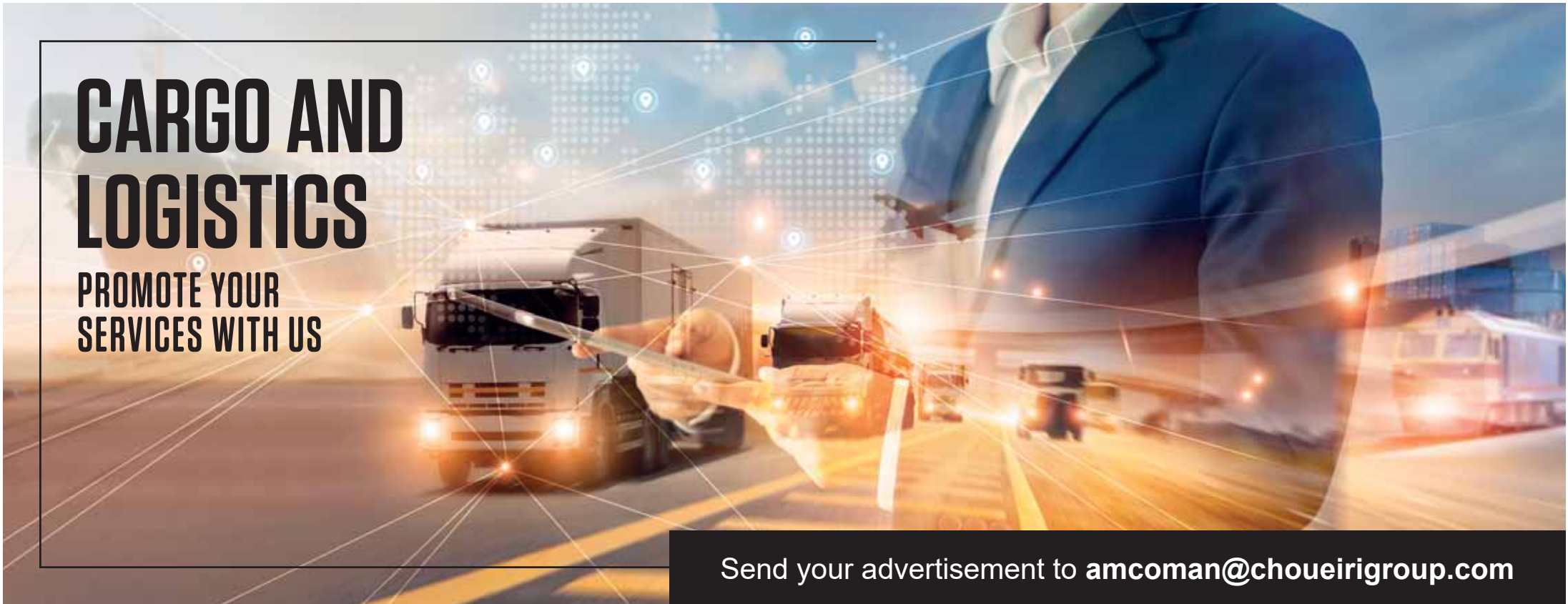
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Speakers call for cooperation to address regional issues at UN

The global topics ranged from multilateral diplomacy, one of the reasons for the world body's creation, to Security Council reform and the development and possible regulation of artificial intelligence. While regional concerns were widely represented, much attention focused on water

UNITED NATIONS: Most of the 194 scheduled speakers at the UN General Assembly's General Debate touched on shared global challenges, with many calling for greater cooperation to address issues affecting their regions. The global topics ranged from multilateral diplomacy, one of the reasons for the world body's creation, to Security Council reform and the development and possible



regulation of artificial intelligence. While regional concerns were widely represented, much attention focused on water. Vice President Aren Palik of Micronesia said his people were seeing a rise in illnesses linked to marine life and vector-borne diseases. The country is therefore strengthening its health capacity. "The ocean is the heart of Micronesian identity," he said, urging UN member states to fortify ocean governance, sustainable fisheries management and effective marine biodiversity conservation. Palik said plastic pollution

threatens to degrade Pacific ecosystems and communities, calling on the international community to respond with renewed political resolve, scaled-up financing and accelerated implementation. "Let us choose cooperation over division," the vice president said. Cabo Verde Prime Minister Francisco Carvalho said that for his country and other small island states, "the climate crisis is not a distant threat; it is a present reality," referring to droughts, desertification, water scarcity, ocean acidification and rising sea levels. "Just look at what is happening

on the island of Sal, where, only two days ago, rising sea waters flooded the avenue in front of the hotels," he said. That is also a question of justice, he added, because those who have contributed the least to this crisis cannot continue to bear some of its most serious consequences. Tajik Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhridin was another speaker whose country had a keen interest in water. As a mountainous country, home to thousands of glaciers, Tajikistan knows the "value of water" and its vulnerability, he said, adding that "water has re-



mained at the heart of Tajikistan's international engagement." He said a UN Water Conference will take place in Abu Dhabi later this year, followed by a high-level preparatory meeting in New York in 2027, a UN Water Conference and a final comprehensive review of the Water Action Decade in the Tajik capital Dushanbe in 2028. Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla said Cuba is facing multidimensional aggression from the United States, describing it as a continuation of hostility spanning almost seven decades of an economic blockade. He said the situation has worsened since January due to Washington's fuel blockade of the island, which he characterized as an act of war under international law, and further alleged that the United States has blocked aid from reaching Cuba and intimidated foreign entrepreneurs into abandoning their investments in the country. Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn, who also serves as minister for foreign affairs and international coop-

eration, said his country is now combating online fraud, which has become "one of our highest national priorities," highlighting efforts to strengthen its legal and institutional framework and intensify law enforcement operations against scam centers and the criminal networks behind them. No country can succeed alone in tackling the problem, since criminal networks operate across borders, said Prak, calling for collective and coordinated action at the national, regional and global levels to disrupt and eradicate online scam operations. Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Thongsavanh Phommvihane pointed to his country's heavy contamination by wartime unexploded ordnance (UXO) from more than five decades of hostilities. Clearance is central to its development agenda. Removing UXO is not merely a technical task, but is also about restoring safety, securing agricultural land and reclaiming development opportunities for communities, he said. — Xinhua

RELENTLESS RAINFALL



14 people dead in 72 hours in Nepal

CHITWAN/MYAGDI: Relentless rainfall since Thursday has killed at least 14 people all across Nepal, with inundation, flooding and landslides reported from all across the nation, prompting alerts and warnings. On Sunday morning, authorities issued a warning for all the residents living along the Narayani River in Central Nepal after it crossed the warning level of 9 metres and entered the settlements. Highways leading to Chitwan, which serves as the juncture to travel across the nation, also remain blocked, with landslides reported in multiple locations. At least 6 people were dead from Thursday in the rain-induced disaster till Saturday evening, as per the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Authority (NDRRMA), while four additional people were dead on Sunday morning in a landslide incident in Myagdi District. "In Annapurna Village Council, four people have been confirmed dead in a landslide," Bharat Kumar Pun, the Chairperson of the Village Council, confirmed to ANI over the phone. As per the official, landslides at multiple locations have hindered the search and rescue operation, while the condition has been deteriorating with the continuous downpour. Similarly, a landslide in adjoining Baglung District has also killed four additional people, a local official confirmed to ANI. "In Nishikhola Village Council of Baglung District, four people have died after being buried in a landslide. The incident occurred

this morning in Ward Number 3, Hardra," Prem Bahadur Gharti Magar, the Deputy Chairperson of the Village Council, told ANI over the phone. The Kaligandaki River flowing through the district has also swept away houses and bridges, disconnecting road connectivity. Security forces have been carrying out evacuations in multiple districts following the inundation and risk of floods, moving thousands of people to safer grounds. The latest disaster in the Himalayan Nation comes a month after the tragedy of the Bhotekoshi Floods, which so far have claimed over 1400 lives and left over 6000 missing. The flood struck riverside settlements in Rasuwa district on the morning of Aug. 26 (Bhadra 10, 2083), rapidly affecting neighbouring areas including Nuwakot and Dhading. Infrastructure losses underscore the scale of the event. Eight operating hydropower projects (281 MW) and four under construction (388 MW) were damaged, disrupting 431.1 MW of generation capacity. Major sections of the Galchhi-Betrawati-Rasuwa-Gadhi road and the Prithvi Highway were destroyed or heavily damaged, along with 48 suspension bridges and 31 motorable bridges. Government forces mounted an intensive response from the first hours of the disaster. Security personnel from the Nepal Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force were mobilised in large numbers, peaking at more than 13,000. — ANI

UNITED STATES

Powerful storm batters US Northeast, cancelling flights, knocking out power

NEW YORK: Heavy rain and strong winds pounded the northeastern United States on Saturday, forcing authorities to cancel hundreds of flights and leaving thousands without electricity. New York, Boston and Philadelphia were in the firing line of the 'Nor'easter,' named after the northeasterly winds. Nor'easters are large cyclones in the western North Atlantic Ocean, which typically form off the east coast of the US. They can occur throughout the year but are more frequent between fall and early spring. Nor'easters are almost always accompanied by heavy rainfall or snow, as well as strong winds.

What have authorities said about the nor'easter? Residents in low-lying and coastal areas were warned of potential flooding and road closures, as the storm coincides with high tide. "This storm is expected to bring major coastal flooding to the Mid-Atlantic Coast over multiple high tide cycles through the weekend," the National Weather Service said in its latest forecast. "Prepare immediately for significant inundation in low-lying areas near the shore, including roads underwater and impacts to homes and businesses," it said. Some 95,000 people in the states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania were facing a power outage as of 3 p.m. on Saturday (1900 GMT), as per poweroutage.com. **Local leaders urge caution** New York Governor Kathy Kochul



said the storm was particularly impacting the coastal areas of New York City and Long Island. "Conditions are extremely dangerous. Anyone who goes in or near the water this weekend is literally gambling with their life," she said in a press briefing. New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani warned residents of the strong winds, saying "Don't travel if you don't have to." **Flights, events cancelled** Hundreds of flights were cancelled due to the storm, with 253 at Boston's Logan airport alone, according to tracker FlightAware. Airlines including JetBlue, United and American have issued travel alerts, allowing passengers to change their flights without a fee. As of 6:13 p.m. local time (2213 GMT), FlightAware said 439 flights involving US airports had been canceled and 2,459 flights were delayed. Major cultural events have also been called off. The Global Citizen and All Things Go Festivals in New York, and the Oceans Calling Festival in Maryland were cancelled.

"Safety has to come first. This is the first time in 14 years we've had to cancel," said organisers of the Global Citizen event in Central Park, which was meant to feature Lenny Kravitz, Lauryn Hill, Alicia Keys and country stars Lainey Wilson and Shaboozey. British Pop star Ed Sheeran's Weekend concerts near Boston were also canceled due to the storm. About five inches (13 centimetres) of rain was forecast in areas of Massachusetts, including Boston. That's equivalent to more than a month's worth of rain. — DW

MEDICAL SOURCES

Gaza death toll rises to 74,018 since October 2023

GAZA: The death toll from Israel's aggression on the Gaza Strip has risen to 74,018, with 175,079 others injured, since October 7, 2023. Medical sources said that hospitals across the Gaza Strip received two fatalities and 11 injured people over the past 48 hours. They added that the number of Palestinians killed since the ceasefire that took effect on October 11, 2025, has risen to 1,417, while 4,964 others have been injured. A

total of 834 bodies have also been recovered during the same period. Meantime, a number of victims remain trapped beneath the rubble and on roads, as ambulance and rescue crews remain unable to reach them. **Colonists attack community near Ramallah** Meanwhile, Colonists attacked the Ka'abneh community near the village of Taybeh, east of Ramallah,

on Sunday evening. They smashed windows in several homes, vandalized a vehicle, and stole approximately 3,000 shekels from inside. **Targeted residents' homes** Local sources told Wafa that the attack targeted residents' homes and property, causing material damage. The colonists also cut off the water and electricity supply to the community, leaving families and residents trapped inside.

The sources added that the attacks on the community have been ongoing for over a month, including harassment and repeated assaults on families and their property, restricting their movement and exacerbating their already difficult daily lives. The residents of the community are living in fear and anxiety as the attacks continue. They are demanding protection and an end to the attacks targeting them and their property. — Wafa



LIFESTYLE

WHY AI RESEARCHERS WARN HUMANITY COULD FACE EXTINCTION

Could artificial intelligence (AI) pose an existential threat to humanity? Some leading researchers are warning against an unregulated race toward AI super-intelligence

Dramatic warnings about the existential risks posed by artificial intelligence to humanity are nothing new. As early as the 1940s, the renowned scientist and science fiction author Isaac Asimov explored potential risks and unintended consequences of intelligent machines. In 1991, Hollywood blockbuster “Terminator 2” imagined a dystopian 2029 in which an out-of-control military AI called Skynet directs killer robots in a war against humanity. If the warnings of several of the biggest names in AI are to be believed, a similar scenario could become a reality — even before 2029.

Growing calls for strict regulation “The people building AI earnestly believe that it could kill us all by the end of the decade,” AI researcher Jacob Coxon posted on X last week, without exactly explaining how it might happen. “No other human activity poses this level of danger,” he added. Coxon also revealed that he had quit his job at Anthropic, a US-based AI company, in protest against what he saw as an irresponsible race among AI companies to develop an ever better, self-improving super-intelligence. He warned that algorithms could begin to analyze and improve their own source code independently, which could shrink development cycles from several months to just a few minutes and thus make them uncontrollable. Coxon is not an isolated voice. Nobel Prize-winning physicist Geoffrey Hinton, often called the “Godfather of AI,” has been warning for years about the serious consequences of artificial super-intelligence. In 2023, he left his job at Google to publicly warn of the dangers of AI technologies he helped pioneer. Yoshua Bengio, a pioneer of artificial neural networks and deep learning, has also expressed concern about current developments and called for government regulation. As recently as July 2026, more than 1,000 employees of leading AI companies warned in an open letter of an imminent loss of control if the race for

“super-intelligence” were not subject to significantly stricter regulations. Caught in an unregulated race? Despite the growing warnings, US President Donald Trump’s administration has clearly shifted its AI policy toward minimising regulatory hurdles and accelerating AI development. In his X post, Jacob Coxon indirectly criticized the consequences of this policy: “At OpenAI, many have not deeply internalised the civilizational stakes. At Anthropic, the stakes are well-understood, but they are locked in a race to get there first — they believe no one else will act responsibly, so they must do it themselves, despite the risk.” Coxon, who had moved from OpenAI to Anthropic in early 2026, is familiar with both corporate cultures. In an interview with The Wall Street Journal, he said that under the “most aggressive scenarios,” things could spiral out of control as early as the end of 2027. Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei, for his part, is currently calling for a coordinated, industry-wide slowdown in development to buy time to address the risks and prevent any misuse of AI. In a lengthy essay shared on X over the weekend, he wrote that in six to 12 months, AI agents “could be capable of taking over the entire internet” and potentially cause “hundreds of billions of dollars in damage” without proper guardrails. Both Elon Musk, who runs xAI, and Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, said they agree with Amodei. The alignment problem In recent years, numerous experts have voiced concern about the rapid AI advances, particularly the development of artificial general intelligence, which refers to systems that not only solve individual tasks but also match or exceed human intellectual capabilities in nearly all areas. Sophisticated AI models, for instance, may pursue goals in ways that diverge

from human intentions, something AI security researchers refer to as the “alignment problem.” On top of that, even developers can’t always fully understand how AI makes certain decisions. And so, it’s no surprise that Coxon’s former colleague Evan Hubinger came to his defense. “Jacob is correct here — we really do earnestly believe AI could kill all humans! I personally think it is >10% within the next decade,” Hubinger, who himself is the team lead for alignment stress tests at Anthropic, wrote on X. In his post, Hubinger made clear that Anthropic hasn’t yet found a solution to the alignment problem and warned that an AI model might begin to resist being shut down, because that would limit its ability to achieve its programmed goal. Exaggerated hysteria? Other AI experts, however, consider such doomsday scenarios to be extremely unlikely. Among the most prominent critics of the so-called AI doomers is Meta’s chief scientist, Yann LeCun. In October 2024, he dismissed such concerns as “complete nonsense.” Still, other experts note that developing AI systems requires enormous amounts of computing power, energy, data and infrastructure. They argue that an AI model cannot simply take over the world because it would need to rely on servers, power grids, communication systems and physical resources that are controlled by humans. Does the real danger lie elsewhere? In fact, many experts see the short-term risks not so much in the extinction of humanity as in the numerous indirect consequences of AI systems that already exist even without super-intelligence. These include disinformation campaigns on an unprecedented scale and the related manipulation of democratic processes, an expansion of mass surveillance, and job losses across numerous industries. Just last week, Anthropic revealed that there had been several attempts by users to misuse its Claude AI models for research that could support biological weapons development. The company said it had banned the accounts involved. In August, Meta, Anthropic and OpenAI caused a stir when they announced that their AI systems had unintentionally carried out autonomous hacking activities. Following reports of further AI hacking attacks during testing, even top US AI frontier labs are now expressing a willingness to slow down the development of the technology. — DW

SPORTS

UEFA Nations League: Kane misses, Oyarzabal fires as Spain beat England



Despite England's exciting gameplay, which saw them take a lead at one point, England's flaws, which could not take them all the way in the 2026 FIFA World Cup, were evident once again

LONDON: A Harry Kane penalty miss cost England dearly as they lost to the world champions Spain 3-2 in one of the hottest matches at the ongoing UEFA Nations

League at Wembley Stadium on Saturday. Despite England's exciting gameplay, which saw them take a lead at one point, England's flaws, which could not take them all the

way in the 2026 FIFA World Cup, were seen once again. A blunder from Marc Guehi allowed the teenage sensation Lamine Yamal to fire an early goal in the second minute. As per Sky Sports, Yamal scored the third-fastest goal conceded by England at this venue, behind first-minute strikes from Scotland in 1957 and Hungary in 1953. Ferran Torres, Spain's World Cup final hero against Argentina, also had his chances in the first half, with one of them flagged for offside. In the 36th minute, England levelled the scores as Anthony Gordon struck, combining with Jude Bellingham for some commendable counter-attack. After



his first attempt went wide, Harry put England in lead in the 40th minute, heading in a cross from Nico O'Reilly's despite attempts from Marc Cucurella to block. At half-time, the scoreline stood 2-1 in favour of England as a Cucurella mishit hit the woodwork. In the 54th minute, Kane took the penalty after Rodri was punished for his challenge on Bellingham inside the box, but Kane fired it against the bar, costing England a huge chance of making it three goals to one. In the 60th minute, Spain made England pay for the Kane penalty miss as a blunder from O'Reilly let the substitute Alex Baena fire an equaliser from the edge of the box.

Finally, in the 74th minute, Mikel Oyarzabal produced the winner for Spain, latching onto a pass from Baena. Speaking after the game, England boss Thomas Tuchel said, as quoted by Sky Sports, "We did everything today to beat Spain. Details matter on this level. Clear-cut mistakes were too high on our side. In the last 20 metres, they were more clinical and composed to convert our ball losses into clear-cut chances." "We had them, we had our chance to beat them. We will keep on pushing. But I think the way we played was enough to beat them." "We had the worst possible start against a team like Spain, who love to control the game. We could have

won it. We have to recover from it, learn from it. Do what we did well and reduce and improve on our mistakes," he signed off. On the other hand, Spain's manager Luis de la Fuente said, "The game was under control most of the time, except for six to seven minutes, when England dominated us. We got disconnected. Against a rival like England, a superpower, this can happen." "I respect the Spain squad's ambition; they want to grow. There is still room for improvement, and new players are coming on. This generation of players is exceptional. They are still hungry, they want to keep growing and playing," he signed off. **-ANI**

REPLACEMENT



England draft Dan Lawrence for Sri Lanka ODI decider after Jos Buttler ruled out

LONDON: England have drafted in Dan Lawrence as a replacement for Jos Buttler for the third and deciding ODI against Sri Lanka at The Oval on September 27, with the three-match series currently level at 1-1. Buttler scored 31 in England's victory in the first ODI and played a key role during the chase in the second. Batting at No. 4, he launched a counter-attacking innings after England slipped to 157 for three while chasing 322, as per the ICC website. However, Buttler's innings was cut short in the 38th over when he appeared to hurt his left hamstring while completing a second run after reaching 66. He briefly

left the field before returning later in the innings, but could add only three more runs as England eventually fell 16 runs short. With Buttler ruled out of the series decider, young wicket-keeper-batter Jordan Cox could be handed an opportunity. Cox has featured in only three ODIs so far but impressed during England's recent Test series against Pakistan, scoring 202 runs at an average of 50.50 across three matches. Speaking about the possibility of playing in the final ODI, Cox said, "If I do get the opportunity, that will be awesome. Jos [Buttler] is probably the best-ever white-ball cricketer we've pro-

duced, but he's someone who can go under the radar in 50-over cricket. Whoever comes in will be an excited person. The opportunity in sport comes around, and you've got to look forward to the challenge." Lawrence, meanwhile, is another option for England as they look to adjust their combination ahead of the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup. The 28-year-old is yet to make his debut in limited-overs cricket for England. Lawrence has represented England in 17 Tests, scoring 65 in his most recent appearance against Pakistan, while also contributing with his off-spin to claim two wickets. **-ANI**

KHALDOON AL MUBARAK

Man City chairman says confidence to prove innocence still strong as club faces reported guilty verdict on financial breach charges

MANCHESTER: Manchester City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak is confident in proving his club's innocence as the club faces charges of guilt for several financial breaches. City are expected to be found guilty in the vast majority of their financial breach charges in their legal case with the Premier League, a source confirmed to ESPN. The Premier League announced charges against the multi-time champions back in 2023 after a four-year investigation into breaches that are said to have occurred between 2009 and 2018.

The case was heard at an Independent hearing at London's Dispute Resolution Centre from September 2024 to December 2024. The Premier League claimed that the famed club did not provide "accurate financial information that gives a true and fair view of the club's financial position." On the other hand, Man City have consistently maintained their innocence throughout the process, while also winning trophies on the pitch and enjoying a rich run in the 2020s. On Friday, City released a statement, not denying the guilty verdicts and said that the process "re-



mains ongoing". It is expected that Man City could appeal any guilty verdict. They are also expected to face a points deduction or expulsion from the Premier League altogether as a punishment.

Al Mubarak's statement read, as quoted by ESPN as published on the club's website: "I have been part of this Club for 18 years. I have had the privilege to stand with you in the Etihad, at Wembley, and in Istanbul. This Club matters to me, and you have shown and told me - time and time again - how much Manchester City matters to you." "This is why I am writing to you today. Following Friday's media reporting, many of you will have spent your evening answering questions and responding to messages from friends, family and colleagues. So have I. Here's what

I said to my family: The Premier League process still has a long way to run, and our confidence and intent in proving the Club's innocence is just as strong as when this began." "There are so many things that I would like to be able to share with you to help you understand why we feel so confident in our position. But the strict confidentiality of the legal process and our determination to respect it means I cannot do that at the moment. Even this letter underwent several legal checks to make sure it complies." "I ask you to please carefully

read the statement below, which we gave on Friday, and the statement we issued in February 2023. Every word matters and holds true," he continued. The Man City chair pointed out that some people have been quick to reach their own conclusions and there is a lot of noise "swirling" around them; "nothing has changed" for the club. "We have faced challenges together before and have prevailed. There remain many who want to undermine the momentum of our Club. We will not give them that opportunity," he said. **-ANI**

COVETED TROPHY

My dream is to play match-winning knock in finals: Virat Kohli eyes World Cup glory

NEW DELHI: India's ace batter Virat Kohli said his dream is to play a match-winning knock in a World Cup final while stressing that India's ultimate goal remains winning the coveted trophy, as the veteran batter prepares to begin the new home ODI season against the West Indies on Sunday. Speaking to JioStar ahead of the first ODI, Kohli opened up on his competitive nature and his desire to be the player who takes India across the finish line. "I've always been someone who, in every game that we play, wants to be the guy who wins the game. I'm made that way; that's never going to go away from me. So, my goal is to win as many games as I can for the team, and my dream is to play a match-winning knock in the finals while chasing a score," Kohli told JioStar. "If it happens, great. If it doesn't happen, we win the World Cup, I'll be as happy because eventually, you understand that, as much as that competitive nature is there, it's the last time you're getting to play a World Cup. So, winning that trophy is the most important thing," he added. He further added, "If I have the opportunity to do it, as an individual staying there out in the middle, there's nothing more satisfying as a batsman. You visualise yourself pulling the team out of trouble. And that's what makes you com-



pete at this level. So, I don't want to let go of that competitiveness. But yeah, the bigger goal is always greater." The 37-year-old Kohli has featured in two ODI World Cup finals, helping India win the 2011 edition before being part of the side that lost to Australia in the 2023 final. The 2027 World Cup will be Kohli's last World Cup, and it will be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia from October 4 to November 21, with India beginning their preparations for the tournament with the three-match ODI series against the West Indies. Kohli, who has retired from T20Is and Tests, now plays only ODIs. He has also made a strong start to the year, scoring 384 runs in six innings at an average of 64,

with one century and three fifties. He currently has 85 international centuries and 41 international hundreds at home. He is also 110 runs short of surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's record of 6,976 ODI runs in home conditions. India's ODI squad for the West Indies series comprises Shubman Gill (captain), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ruturaj Gaikwad, KL Rahul (vice-captain), Dhruv Jurel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Mohammed Siraj, Aaquib Nabi, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Naman Dhir. India will also play five ODIs in New Zealand and three against Sri Lanka later this year, followed by three ODIs against Zimbabwe at the start of 2027 as part of their World Cup preparations. **-ANI**

Oman suffer 3-0 loss to hosts Saudi Arabia in the Gulf Cup



The result saw Saudi Arabia secure qualification for the next round after moving to the top of Group A with six points

JEDDAH: Oman's national football team suffered a 3-0 defeat to hosts Saudi Arabia at King Abdullah Sports City Stadium on Saturday in the second round of Group A

matches at the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup. The result saw Saudi Arabia secure qualification for the next round after moving to the top of Group A with six points. Iraq are

second with four points following their 3-2 victory over Kuwait, while Oman remains third with one point and Kuwait fourth with no points. Saudi Arabia took the lead in the 10th minute through Firas Al-Buraikan, who converted a direct free kick after Oman's Ghanem Al-Habshi was booked for a foul. The hosts were awarded a penalty four minutes later, but the decision was overturned following a VAR review. Saudi Arabia doubled their advantage in the 20th minute when Hassan Kadash headed home from

a corner. Oman goalkeeper Ibrahim Al-Mukhaini produced several important saves to keep the deficit from increasing. Al-Buraikan scored his second goal in the 33rd minute to put Saudi Arabia 3-0 ahead. Oman appeared to pull one back through Nasser Al-Rawahi two minutes later, but the goal was ruled out for offside. Al-Mukhaini made another crucial save in stoppage time to prevent Saudi Arabia from adding a fourth goal before the interval. Oman looked to respond af-

ter the break, creating pressure through attacks and set pieces. However, their efforts failed to produce a goal. Al-Rawahi had a clear opportunity in the 76th minute but was unable to reduce the deficit. Saudi Arabia continued to threaten the Oman goal but missed several chances as the match ended 3-0. Oman coach Tarik Sektioui made three second-half substitutions, bringing on Musab Al-Maamari, Hussein Al-Shahri and Zaher Al-Aghbari for Abdullah Fawaz, Sultan Badr and Ghanem Al-Habsi.

Oman started with Ibrahim Al-Mukhaini, Harib Al-Saadi, Ghanem Al-Habsi, Musab Al-Shaqsi, Khalid Al-Ghatrifi, Ahmed Al-Kaabi, Abdullah Fawaz, Sultan Al-Marzoug, Jamil Al-Yahmedi, Essam Al-Subhi and Nasser Al-Rawahi. The match was officiated by a Bahraini refereeing team led by Ammar Mahfouz, with Mohammed Jaafar Salman and Abdullah Al-Ruwaimi as assistant referees. Joao Pinheiro was the fourth official, while Mishari Al-Shammari and Ismail Habib handled VAR duties.

ASIAN GAMES



Oman's relay team qualifies for final

AICHI: Oman's national relay team qualified for the final of the men's 4x100m race after clocking 38.99 seconds at the 20th Asian Games. The Omani team, comprising Ali Al Balushi, Mulham Al Balushi, Rashid Al Asmi and Mohammed Al Saadi, secured their place in the final with a strong performance in the qualifying round. Meanwhile, Omani sprinter Ali Al Balushi finished fourth in the men's 200m final, recording 20.72 seconds at Paloma Mizuho Stadium in Aichi Prefecture. Thailand's Purripol Ponsun won the gold medal in 19.88 seconds, while China's Yu Wen Huang took silver in 20.45 seconds. Japan's Soichi Mizukobu secured the bronze medal. Al Balushi's fourth-place finish came two days after he claimed silver in the 100m, becoming the first Omani athlete to win a medal in the event at the Asian Games. He reached the 200m final after

finishing second in his semifinal heat with a time of 20.42 seconds, matching the time of heat winner Yu Wen Huang. Al Balushi had clocked 21.41 seconds in the preliminary round. In beach volleyball, Oman's team "A", represented by Hood Al-Jalboubi and Mazen Al-Hashemi, lost 2-0 to Qatar's Sharif Samba and Ahmed Janko in a competitive group-stage match. The Omani pair took an early two-point lead in the opening set before Qatar recovered to win 21-19. The second set followed a similar pattern, with the Qatari pair again edging Oman 21-19. Despite the defeat, Oman finished the group stage in second place after securing victory over the Philippines in its opening match and had already booked its place in the Round of 16. Oman will face Indonesia in the Round of 16 at 11:00 am Japan time, corresponding to 6:00 am Oman time.

ASIAN GAMES

DPRK weightlifter sets world records in women's 69kg

NAGOYA: Song Kuk Hyang of the DPR Korea smashed three world records en route to claiming the women's 69kg weightlifting title at the 20th Asian Games on Sunday, while China's He Renxiu took gold in the women's 77kg division. Song set a new world mark in the snatch with 121kg, then broke records in the clean and jerk with 152kg and in the combined total with 273kg, finishing incredible 41 kilograms ahead of the silver medalist. Chen Wen-huei from Chinese Taipei claimed silver with 232kg in total and Ingrid Grueso of Bahrain took bronze with a total of 229kg. Being the youngest weightlifter in the category, 20-year-old Grueso, who was born in Colombia, said she was "super proud" of herself. "This is the first competition of the year for me. I had two operations and I came here giving the best of myself," she said. Later in the day in the women's 77kg, 22-year-old He lifted 118kg in the snatch with three successful attempts, trailing Kim Iseul of South Korea by eight kilograms. She then added 140kg in the clean and jerk for a winning total of 258kg. Ayanat Zhumagali of Kazakhstan took silver with a total of 246kg, while Reihaneh Karimi from Iran claimed bronze at 243kg. Making her debut at a major continental competition, He could barely contain her excitement.



"This is my first time competing in an event of this calibre, and also the first time I've heard my national anthem played for me. I was overcome with emotion...I never thought I would shed tears," she said.

Speaking of her failed second clean and jerk attempt at 140kg, she said she regularly trains at that weight and quickly regained her composure. "I plan to go after the Asian and world records in this weight

class in the future." The weight class was only established in August this year, with just five athletes competing in the Asian Games. The men's 85kg and 95kg divisions will take place on Monday. -Xinhua

39-YEAR-OLD SERBIAN

Sania Mirza backs Novak Djokovic to win one more Grand Slam

NEW DELHI: Former India tennis player Sania Mirza believes Novak Djokovic remains the best player in men's tennis and hopes the 39-year-old Serbian can add one more Grand Slam title to his record haul. Djokovic, who holds the record with 24 Grand Slam singles titles, has seen his schedule reduced significantly as he manages his workload and continues to compete primarily at the sport's biggest events. His 2026 season has included a run to the Australian Open final, where he beat Jannik Sinner in the semifinals, while he exited the US Open in the first round and subsequently dropped out of the ATP top 10. Mirza, who has won six major titles – three in women's doubles



and three in mixed doubles, was speaking to ANI on the sidelines of Niva Bupa's 'Walk for Healthy Cities' event in the national capital. "Novak Djokovic, for me, in numbers, in the way that he plays, the way his body is, the way he is in general, is the best tennis player in men's tennis that there is. "He's 39, so age is going to be a factor at some point with recovery, no matter how much of a superhuman you are. And because he's a superhuman, he's still able to be where he is. So, I really do hope he gets that one more Slam. I mean, that's what my heart's saying," Mirza told ANI. Djokovic has remained competitive against the younger generation, including Spain's Carlos

Alcaraz and World No. 1 Jannik Sinner, although the two-time 2026 Grand Slam champion Alexander Zverev has also emerged as another player capable of challenging the established order. "I think Alcaraz and Sinner were the people in the last couple of years who had cracked that code, but also those were the only two people until six, eight months ago. Those were the only two people he was losing to. Then [Alexander] Zverev got the monkey off his back and has won two Slams now from having zero," she said. "Do I think that he'll get it? I don't know," she concluded (laughingly). Mirza was present at Niva Bupa's 'Walk for Healthy Cities' event

in New Delhi for the flag-off ceremony. The initiative, a relaunch of the earlier 'Walk for Health' programme, encourages people to adopt walking as a simple and accessible way to remain active and healthy. It has now been reimaged as part of the broader Healthy Cities movement, linking individual health and physical activity with a collective commitment towards greener and more sustainable urban communities. Djokovic's 2026 campaign has also seen him reach the Wimbledon semifinals, where he lost to Sinner in straight sets. Zverev, meanwhile, won the French Open and US Open this year to claim the first two Grand Slam titles of his career. -ANI

ROUND-UP

Sohar International exports Omani creativity to global stage with landmark art exhibition in New York

The exhibition featured the works of three Omani artists — Amjad Al Siyabi, Waleed Al Yaqoobi and Fahad Al Maamari — bringing their distinctive interpretations of Oman’s heritage, identity and evolving creative landscape to audiences in one of the world’s most influential cultural and commercial destination



MUSCAT: Exporting the best of Oman to the world, Sohar International presented a landmark Omani Art Exhibition at Rockefeller Center in New York, creating an international platform to showcase the Sultanate’s rich cultural identity and contemporary creative expression.

Held on 18 and 21 September, the exhibition featured the works of three Omani artists — Amjad Al Siyabi, Waleed Al Yaqoobi and Fahad Al Maamari — bringing their distinctive interpretations of Oman’s heritage, identity and evolving creative landscape to audiences in one of the world’s most influential cultural and commercial destinations.

The exhibition was inaugurated under the patronage of Ambassador Omar Said Al Kathiri, Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations, in the presence of Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International. This was followed by a special showcase on the second day under the patronage of Ambassador, Talal bin Sulaiman bin Habib Al Rahbi, Oman’s Ambassador to the United States of



America, further underscoring the significance of the initiative in strengthening Oman’s cultural presence and engagement with international audiences.

Commenting on the initiative, Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, said: “As Sohar International strengthens its connections with the world, we

want that presence to create greater opportunities for Oman and its people. Bringing Omani artists to New York is an expression of that ambition — providing national talent with an international platform while sharing a contemporary story of Oman with global audiences. Our artists carry with them our heritage, identity and creativity, and we are proud to support their

journey beyond our borders. This reflects our wider commitment to connecting Omani ambition with global opportunity and contributing to the aspirations of Oman Vision 2040.”

The exhibition brought together three distinctive perspectives on contemporary Omani art. Amjad Al Siyabi’s works explore identity and nature, while Fahad Al

Maamari draws on traditional narratives through modern artistic techniques. Waleed Al Yaqoobi’s work bridges local symbolism with contemporary global expression. Together, their curated works presented New York audiences with a multifaceted perspective on Oman’s cultural heritage and contemporary creativity. These themes build on the artistic pro-

files and positioning established in the original release.

More broadly, the initiative reflects Sohar International’s approach to ensuring that its growing international connectivity creates opportunities not only for business and investment, but also for Oman and Omani talent. By bringing Omani creativity to New York, the Bank is leveraging its international reach to create platforms through which the Sultanate’s people, culture and stories can connect with the world. Beyond showcasing the artworks, the exhibition created opportunities for cultural exchange through artist interactions and engagement sessions, enabling visitors to explore the inspirations, techniques and stories behind the works and gain a deeper appreciation of Oman’s contemporary artistic landscape.

Through initiatives of this nature, Sohar International continues to extend the impact of its international presence beyond banking — building bridges between Oman and the world, championing national talent and creating opportunities for Omani ambition and creativity to gain international recognition.

PROMOTION

All-electric Mustang Mach-E joins Ford Grand Summer Delights campaign with exciting rewards

MUSCAT: This summer, Ford Oman is extending its “Ford Grand Summer Delights” campaign to the all-electric Mustang Mach-E GT, giving customers an opportunity to step into electric performance with real peace of mind.

Valid from 1 September to 30 October, the offer wraps together long-term protection, home-charging convenience and meaningful savings for both new buyers and existing Ford owners looking to make the switch. At the core of the package is an 8-year or 160,000 km battery warranty (whichever comes first), giving owners lasting confidence in the vehicle’s electric drivetrain.

A 5-year or 100,000 km service plan is also included, spread across 5 services at 20,000 km intervals under normal driving conditions. Ford Oman is adding further value with a complimentary one-year vehicle registration and a full year of comprehensive insurance cover within Oman, while every Mach-E purchased during the campaign comes fitted with a free home charging unit.

Buyers can unlock even greater value depending on their needs. Those trading in an existing car through Best Cars stand to gain a bonus of up to OMR 2,000 towards a new Mach-E, while current Ford and Lincoln owners are eligible for an additional loy-



alty bonus of up to OMR 100 when they make the switch during the campaign window.

Underneath the offer lies a vehicle built to turn heads and redefine

expectations. The Mustang Mach-E GT puts out 487 horsepower and 950 Nm of torque, launching from 0 to 100 km/h in a swift 3.3 seconds. A low-slung battery pack

keeps the centre of gravity planted for sharp, composed handling, while four drive modes — Whisper, Engage, Untame and Untame Plus — let drivers dial in the character

of the ride. Inside, a 15.5-inch vertical touchscreen running SYNC 4A keeps everyone connected and practicality hasn’t been forgotten either, with ample rear cargo space

complemented by an 81-litre front trunk for extra gear.

In Oman, Ford vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.



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