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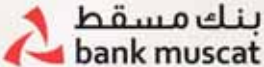
OF OMAN



51

YEARS OF LEGACY

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OMAN AND RWANDA ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT TO OPEN EMBASSIES, ESTABLISH JOINT COMMITTEE

This was announced during a joint statement issued on the official visit of President of Rwanda

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Rwanda announced their agreement to open resident embassies in both countries, establish a joint committee and a joint business council, and implement a technical cooperation programme, thereby strengthening diplomatic presence and establishing institutional mechanisms to advance and follow up on cooperation, while supporting the further expansion of the partnership between the two countries. This was announced during a Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the official visit of the President of Rwanda to the Sultanate of Oman.

The joint statement reads as follows:
“Upon the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda, paid an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman from 7 to 8 September 2026.
“During the visit, the two leaders held official talks on ways to strengthen bilateral relations and expand areas of cooperation in a manner that serves their common interests, reaffirming their commitment to continuing to develop the partnership between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Rwanda.
“The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Rwanda underscored the importance of further strengthening bilateral cooperation and advancing coordination across areas of investment, transport, energy, mining, tourism, logistics, and communications, and in the fields of banking and finance, encouraging partnerships between the public and private sectors, and strengthening trade cooperation in a manner that contributes to increasing the volume of trade between the two countries.” **>A4**



HM, President of Rwanda hold meeting

SALALAH: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik held a meeting with President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda at Al Maamourah Palace on Tuesday morning. During the meeting, the two leaders reaffirmed the growing ties between their countries and their shared commitment to further strengthening cooperation across economic and investment sectors, in the interest of their peoples.
The meeting was attended on His Majesty's side by His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs; His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs; Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court; General Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office; Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior; Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister; Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance; Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office; Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology; Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals; Anwar bin Hilal Al Jabri, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Nasra bint Salim Al Hashmi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Kenya and Non-Resident Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda. **>A4**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN NCSI survey seeks feedback on govt services

1 The National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) is conducting the 7th round of its public opinion survey on satisfaction with government services for the second half of 2026. **>A3**

OMAN Mobile subscriptions top 8.4mn in Oman

2 The total number of mobile subscriptions in the Sultanate of Oman reached 8,435,420. **>A3**

SPORTS Kylian Mbappe hopes to bag Ballon d'Or

3 Kylian Mbappe believes his World Cup campaign has put him in contention for the Ballon d'Or. **>B6**

ANNUAL REPORT

Oman's real GDP to accelerate to 4% in 2026

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's real gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to accelerate to 4 percent in 2026, supported by both hydrocarbon and non-hydrocarbon sectors, according to a new report.
Real GDP growth had accelerated in 2025 to 2.4 percent (from 1.6 percent in 2024), the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) said in its new edition of its Annual Report for 2025. While, non-hydrocarbon activities expanded by 3.1 percent, driven by continued growth across

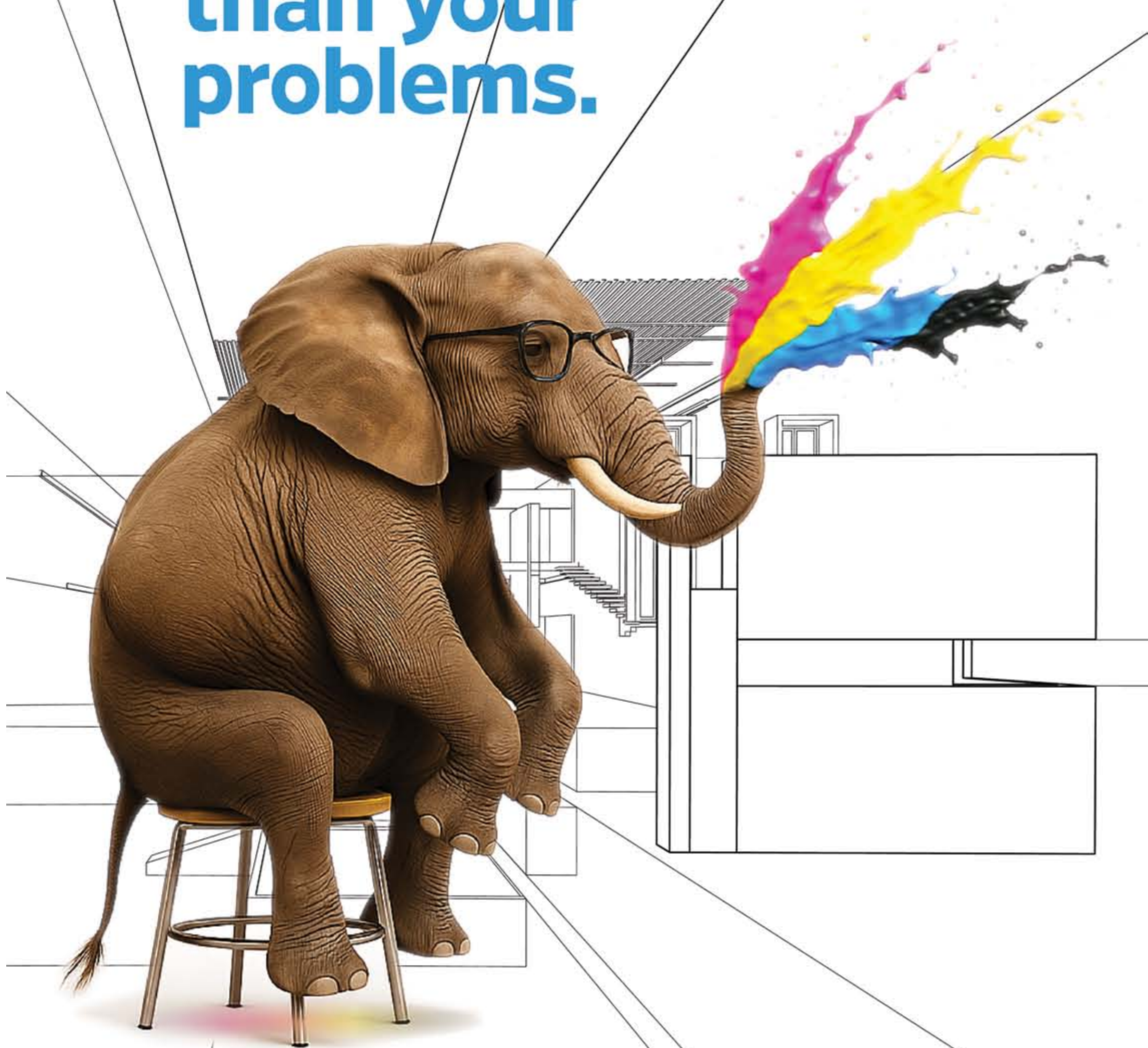


key sectors, agriculture and fisheries recorded the strongest growth at 10.2 percent, reflecting ongoing efforts to strengthen food security and expand domestic production,

the report said. “While construction activity grew by 2 percent, on the back of continued investment and development projects. Services activity continued to record solid growth at 3.1 in 2025, benefiting from strong domestic demand and broad-based expansion across key service sectors,” the report added. Over the medium term, economic activity is expected to strengthen further, buoyed by continued expansion across non-hydrocarbon sectors and sustained investment activity.
Inflation in Oman remained low

and well contained, reflecting the effectiveness of the exchange rate peg as a credible nominal anchor and the relatively limited pass-through of global price pressures into the domestic economy.
Average inflation recorded a modest increase of 1.0 percent in 2025, up from 0.6 percent in 2024, indicating the presence of mild inflationary pressures, while remaining at manageable levels supported by stable domestic demand conditions and strong coordination between monetary and fiscal policies. **>A5**

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Oman, Jordan reaffirm commitment to stronger ties across key sectors

Booth the countries seek deeper parliamentary, economic and tourism cooperation

Times News Service

AMMAN: Khalid Al Maawali, Chairman of the Shura Council, held talks in the Jordanian capital, Amman, with Mazen Al-Qadi, Speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, on the sidelines of the official visit being undertaken by the Chairman of the Shura Council and his accompanying delegation to Jordan.

The visit forms part of efforts to strengthen parliamentary diplomacy and enhance parliamentary and economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

During the talks, the Chairman of the Shura Council and his counterpart, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, affirmed that Jordanian-Omani relations represent a model for Arab relations



resent a model for Arab relations built on fraternity and mutual respect — enduring ties rooted in the era of the late King Hussein bin Talal and Late Sultan Qaboos bin Said, and sustained with the same strength under King Abdullah II and His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

Khalid Al Maawali affirmed that Jordanian-Omani relations are firmly established and grounded in a long history of engagement between the leaderships and peoples of both countries, underlining the shared commitment to continuing their development and advancement across various fields.

He pointed to the importance of sustaining parliamentary engagement and the exchange of views on issues of mutual concern to both countries and the region, stressing the importance of strengthening Jordanian-Omani parliamentary coordination in regional and international forums.

On the Palestinian cause, he affirmed that it holds a prominent place in the conscience of the Omani people, reaffirming support for the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state, and commending Jordan's steadfast positions in defending the Palestinian cause, Jerusalem and the holy sites.

He also affirmed that Oman and Jordan agree on the importance of dialogue, diplomacy and political solutions in addressing the region's crises, noting that escalation serves neither the peoples of the region nor its security and stability.

The Speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives affirmed the importance of continuing to develop parliamentary relations between the Jordanian House of Representatives and the Omani Shura Council, activating visits and meetings between the two councils, and exchanging legislative expertise and experience, reflecting the depth of the relations binding the two brotherly countries and peoples.

He also commended the balanced and wise approach adopted by the leaderships of both countries, based on dialogue, moderation, and non-engagement in policies of polarisation and bloc politics, thereby contributing to strengthening the region's security and stability, underlining the importance of continued Jordanian-Omani coordination on regional developments and support for efforts to reduce escalation.

On economic matters, the talks affirmed the importance of building on the outcomes of mutual visits between the leaderships of both countries, expanding economic and investment cooperation, and encouraging the private sector in both countries to explore joint opportunities, particularly in the fields of energy, tourism, agriculture and technology, alongside efforts to raise the level of trade exchange and diversify the base of goods and services traded between them.

The talks also affirmed the importance of strengthening tourism cooperation between the two countries and capitalising on the growth in the number of Omani visitors to the Kingdom, thereby contributing to greater engagement between the two brotherly peoples and opening wider prospects for cooperation in the tourism sector.

On education, both sides noted that Jordan and Oman share a deep-rooted legacy of academic cooperation, affirming the importance of continued collaboration between universities and scientific research centres and the exchange of students, while commending the Sultanate's continued support for Jordan.

The meeting affirmed the deep fraternal and historical relations binding the two brotherly countries and their wise leaderships, which form a solid foundation for these relations, and the shared commitment to strengthening them across various fields, particularly in parliamentary work and the exchange of legislative and oversight expertise.

The meeting also affirmed the importance of activating the Parliamentary Friendship Committees between the two brotherly countries, with a view to expanding coordination and cooperation within Arab, Islamic and international parliamentary unions and forums, in addition to activating the work of the Jordanian-Omani Joint Higher Committee to strengthen relations across various fields, and encouraging the private sector in both countries to benefit from available opportunities and invest, particularly in major projects.

ister Plenipotentiary Badr Al-Busaidi, Deputy Head of Mission and Acting Cultural Attaché, and a delegation from the Secretariat General of the Omani Shura Council.

On the sidelines of the visit, Khalid Al Maawali met with Dr Jafar Hassan, Prime Minister of Jordan.

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SOLS 2040

Shura Committee reviews progress in logistics strategy implementation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Economic and Financial Committee at the Shura Council hosted on Tuesday a number of specialists from C. Steinweg Oman LLC, a company operating in the logistics services sector, as part of its efforts to examine and follow up on the indicators of economic progress made in implementing the Sultanate of Oman Logistics Strategy (SOLS 2040), and to assess the operational reality and challenges facing the sector.

During the meeting, the company's specialists delivered a visual presentation reviewing a range of data and information related to the performance of the logistics sector, with a focus on shipping activity at Sohar Port and the level of operations related to cargo handling and re-export.

The honourable Committee Members received a comprehensive briefing on the key enablers contributing to supporting and developing the performance of companies operating in the ports' shipping sector in Oman, alongside the challenges facing these companies and their implications for operational efficiency and the level of utilisation of the potential available within the logistics sector.



The meeting also reviewed key statistics and data related to handling operations and their associated operational processes, alongside indicators related to re-export activity, reflecting the level of activity in these areas and their role in supporting the trade and economic movement linked to the logistics sector.

In a related context, the Committee Members discussed with the specialists the level of progress made under the National Logistics Strategy 2040 from the perspective of companies operating in the sector, and raised a number of enquiries regarding the indicators reflecting the sector's performance development, the extent of progress made towards achieving the targets, alongside the existing challenges and available opportunities to enhance the sector's competitiveness and improve the efficiency of its operations.

The Committee's hosting of the specialists forms part of its interest in following up on economic files and sectors related to economic diversification, and assessing the reality of the logistics sector and its performance indicators, thereby contributing to forming a comprehensive picture of the level of progress in implementing its targets and the challenges that may face its development pathways.

Separately, during the meeting, the Committee reviewed its opinion on the Ministry of Economy's Annual Report for 2025.

The meeting was chaired by Ahmed Al Sharqi, Chairman of the Economic and Financial Committee at the Shura Council, and attended by the honourable Committee Members, as part of the Committee's second meeting held between the Third and Fourth Ordinary Sessions of the Tenth Term of the Council (2023–2027).

The event, organised by the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain in cooperation with the GCC Secretariat General, discussed commonalities and exchanged parliamentary expertise. It aims to highlight the role of legislative councils in supporting joint Gulf action and developing legislation across various sectors.

On the sidelines of participating in the seminar, Dr. Abdulaziz Rashid Al Hashmi, member of the Council, presented a working paper titled "The Gulf Digital Economy: Legislation, Development of Technological Infrastructure, Enhancing GDP Contribution, Stimulating Investments, and the Safety of Digital Society", addressing the main challenges facing legislative councils in regulating the Gulf digital economy, as well as the plans, strategies, and legislative system related to the digital economy in the Sultanate of Oman.

The paper reviewed the Council's oversight and legislative efforts in preventing digital monopoly and monitoring national indicators to enhance investment attractiveness. It concluded by affirming the importance of a unified Gulf legislative framework and establishing a joint coordination committee to ensure sustainable growth and the safety of the digital society. -ONA

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS

Shura Council takes part in joint Gulf seminar

MUSCAT: The Shura Council participated via videoconferencing in the joint Gulf seminar for legislative councils of the GCC.

The event, organised by the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain in cooperation with the GCC Secretariat General, discussed commonalities and exchanged parliamentary expertise. It aims to highlight the role of legislative councils in supporting joint Gulf action and developing legislation across various sectors.

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ESCWA

‘Need to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals’

JABAL AKHDAR: The Statistical Committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on Tuesday began its 17th session in the Wilayat of Jabal Akhdar. The Sultanate of Oman is represented at the three-day session by the National Centre for Statistics and Information.

Participants in the session include heads and representatives of national statistic offices in Arab countries and officials from the United Nations and Arab, regional and international organisations, in addition to experts and specialists.

Dr. Rania Al Mashat, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the ESCWA, said, "This ESCWA session is being held at a time when the need is increasingly arising for reliable, timely, well-documented and comparable data in the backdrops of the rapid economic and social transformations, the digital revolution and the challenges posed to statistical systems through conflicts, disasters and displacements."

Dr. Rania stressed that such challenges give rise to new opportunities to enhance the capacity of statistical systems to respond to different conditions.



She noted that the current phase of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers an opportunity to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For his part, Dr. Mustafa Saad Badawi, Head of the Population Statistics and Censuses Sector in the Arab Republic of Egypt, said that statistical work is undergoing rapid transitions that extend beyond technology. These developments, he observed, cover the nature of demand for data, its sources and uses and the environment in which national statistical agencies operate.

Dr. Khalifa bin Abdullah Al Barwani, CEO of the National Centre for Statistics and Information, said that the Sultanate of Oman's hosting of the ESCWA Statistical Committee's 17th session reflects Oman's commitment to consolidate Arab statistical cooperation and exchange expertise and experiences in a manner that ultimately leads to more integrated, flexible, and responsive statistical systems that are capable of adapting to rapid changes.

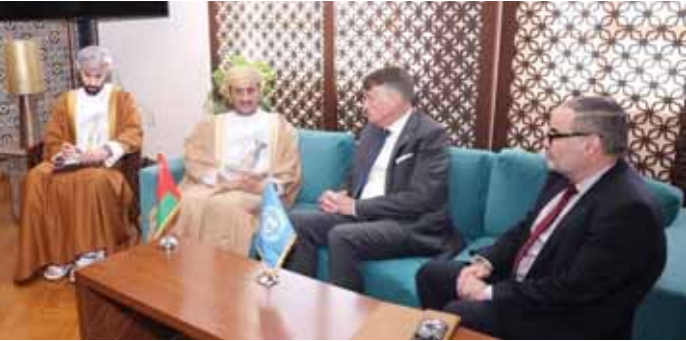
Al Barwani pointed out that the rapid progress in artificial intelligence, big data and digital resources is opening up broad vistas for statistical institutions to develop data collection, processing and analysis, in addition to accelerating the production of indicators. He also highlighted the Sultanate of Oman's experience in using modern technology and artificial intelligence in implementing the AI-powered Household Income and Expenditure Survey project. -ONA

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MINISTERIAL SESSION

Oman affirms full support for the Palestinian cause



CAIRO: Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, and Christian Saunders, Acting Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), yesterday held a meeting in Cairo on the sidelines of a ministerial session of the Arab League Council.

The two sides discussed the current humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, the operational and financial challenges posed to the UN agency and ways to enhance joint cooperation in a manner that secures the supply of essential services to Palestinian refugees.

Al Harthy affirmed the Sultanate of Oman's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause. He underscored the vital role of the UNRWA in supporting humanitarian stability in the region. He stressed the need for concerted Arab and international efforts to provide the UNRWA with necessary backing to enable the agency to carry out its duties without obstacles.

For his part, the Acting Commissioner-General of the UNRWA expressed his deep appreciation for the Sultanate of Oman's constant support for humanitarian issues. He commended Oman's active role in supporting United Nations programmes and relief initiatives aimed to serve the Palestinian people. -ONA

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JOINT STATEMENT



Oman welcomes European statement rejecting Israeli settlement expansion

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has welcomed the joint statement issued by the foreign ministers of the United Kingdom, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden, which rejects Israeli settlement expansion in the occupied Palestinian territories and calls for steps to prevent trade linked to settlements deemed illegal under international law.

In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry yesterday, Oman said the continued expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories constitutes a violation of international law and UN resolutions. It called on the international community to take a firm stand to prevent and remove any obstacles to the full and legitimate independence of the Palestinian state on the 4 June 1967 borders, in pursuit of a just and comprehensive peace.

Oman also urged the international community to take further practical and effective steps to deter Israeli settlement policies in the occupied Palestinian territories, ensure respect for international law and international humanitarian law and prevent the continuation of measures aimed at altering the demographic and geographic reality of the State of Palestine and the rights of the Palestinian people to their land. **-ONA**

Mobile subscriptions top 8.4mn in Oman

The data showed that active postpaid mobile subscriptions increased by 6.8% to reach 1,326,014

MUSCAT: The total number of mobile telecommunications subscriptions in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 1% by the end of July 2026, reaching 8,435,420 subscriptions, compared with the end of July 2025, according to the latest data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The data showed that active postpaid mobile subscriptions increased by 6.8% to reach 1,326,014, while active prepaid mobile subscriptions declined by 2.6% to 5,394,199 subscriptions.

Subscriptions to Internet of Things (IoT) machine-to-machine (M2M) services recorded



growth of 9.3%, reaching 1,715,207 subscriptions by the end of July 2026. In terms of fixed internet technologies, Fiber-to-the-Home/Building (FTTH/B) subscriptions increased by 6.4% to reach 366,686 subscriptions by the end of July 2026.

In contrast, Fixed 5G subscriptions declined by 3.6% to 209,796 subscriptions, while Fixed 4G subscriptions fell by 69.1% to 5,333 subscriptions.

Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) subscriptions decreased by 21.4% to 8,677 subscriptions, while satellite broadband subscriptions recorded the highest growth rate among fixed internet technologies, rising by 148.1% to 1,871 subscriptions. The total number of active fixed telephone subscriptions also increased by 0.5% to reach 441,306 subscriptions by the end of July 2026.

International internet bandwidth capacity increased by 31.8%, reaching 5,382,003 megabits per second (Mbps) by the end of July 2026. **-ONA**

COMMENTARY

Oman's Phased eInvoicing Rollout Is a Head Start, Not a Starting Point

Oman's Tax Authority has handed businesses something rare in regulation — a confirmed, published timeline. Fawtara, Oman's new eInvoicing mandate, arrives in three dated waves. Phase 1 in August 2026 for the 100 largest taxpayers, Phase 2 in February 2027 for all large VAT-registered businesses, and Phase 3 in August 2027 for every remaining VAT-registered business, including SMEs, with no turnover threshold and no permanent exemption.

For most Omani businesses, the mandate that applies to them is still more than a year away. It would be easy to read that gap as breathing room. It should instead be read as a head start that will not be offered twice.

The comfort of distance is the trap

Regulators rarely publish rollout phases this far ahead, and when they do, the instinct among businesses in the later waves is predictable. If Phase 3 does not begin until August 2027, why act now?

Because Fawtara does not simply digitise the invoice a business already produces, it changes how that invoice is created, checked

and reported. Every invoice will need to be generated in a structured, machine-readable format, validated by an accredited service provider, and reported to the Tax Authority in real time for business-to-business sales, or within 24 hours for consumer sales. That is a different way of working, and it cannot be bolted on in the final weeks before a deadline. Businesses waiting for their phase before starting, are mistaking the deadline for the starting gun. By the time Phase 3 is confirmed, accredited providers and IT teams will be stretched thin serving every SME in the country at once. Early movers get to choose their provider properly, test their systems without pressure, and fix data problems on their own schedule rather than the Tax Authority's.

That last point matters. Mismatched tax numbers, outdated contact details and incorrect VAT rates are already among the most common causes of invoice rejection under Fawtara. A rushed rollout in the final months is precisely when these errors multiply, and a rejected invoice delays payment, not just paperwork.



What bare minimum compliance actually buys you

It is worth being honest about what the minimum viable version of Fawtara compliance looks like, because for many businesses this will be the default path: register with an accredited provider, connect just enough of the existing system to generate a valid invoice, pass the checks, and stop there. While this keeps a business on the right side of the mandate and avoids penalties, it treats eInvoicing as a cost of doing business rather than an asset, and leaves most of the available value on the table. It does not resolve master

data problems upstream of the invoice, or connect invoicing back to the purchase orders and contracts that gave rise to it. And archiving, a legal obligation from day one requiring ten years of retention, split five-and-five between the service provider and the business's own electronic archive, gets treated as an afterthought rather than a planned handover. Bare-minimum builders are simply deferring that problem to the point, five years out, when the archive lands back on their own desk.

The tier above compliance

There is a materially different way to approach the same

mandate. Instead of asking what needs to connect to Fawtara, ask what a fully validated, structured invoice lets a business do that a paper or PDF invoice never could. Quite a lot. A structured eInvoice is not just compliant, it is instantly usable. It can be matched automatically against the purchase order and contract that authorised it, flagging discrepancies before they become disputes. It can trigger payment the moment it is validated, rather than waiting on manual review. And because it is machine-readable from creation, it gives finance teams real-time visibility into liabilities and cash position, rather than a picture assembled after the fact from a stack of PDFs. The productivity case is not theoretical as research has proven that structured eInvoicing compresses that sharply, and paying early is worth more than most finance teams assume.

Building the groundwork now

None of this needs to happen at once. Businesses that will be ready, comfortably, before their phase begins are auditing tax and contact data before it faces

automated checks daily. They're assessing whether current systems can produce compliant invoices or need a provider layered on top. They're choosing that provider with time to test properly. And they're deciding who owns the second five years of archiving once the provider's own retention period ends.

A pattern, not a one-off

Oman is now the third country in the Gulf to mandate eInvoicing, following Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Three governments independently reaching the same conclusion is a strong signal that structured, real-time invoicing delivers genuine value, not just administrative tidiness. But how much of that value a business captures depends entirely on how well it prepares. Treated as a checkbox, Fawtara returns exactly what a checkbox returns. Treated as an opportunity to fix data, connect systems and build real visibility, it returns considerably more.

(The author is Senior Vice President, MEA & APAC at JAGGAER, and the views expressed are personal)

SEVENTH ROUND

NCSI survey seeks feedback on government services

MUSCAT: The National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) is conducting the seventh round of its public opinion survey on satisfaction with government services for the second half of 2026, from 6 September to 31 December 2026.

The survey aims to measure the level of beneficiary satisfaction with government services, monitor their experiences in dealing with various government entities, and provide statistical indicators and data that support efforts to develop services, improve their quality and enhance the efficiency of government performance.

The survey targets citizens, residents, private sector establishments and government entities that dealt with government entities during the first half of the current year. The sample is selected according to specific statistical criteria to ensure representation of the various categories of beneficiaries and obtain results that reflect their actual levels of satisfaction and experience with the services provided.

The survey covers several aspects of the beneficiary experience, including ease of access to services, clarity of information and procedures, speed of transaction completion, overall service efficiency, effectiveness of communication channels, and the level of digital transformation in

service delivery.

The survey forms part of NCSI's efforts to provide statistical indicators on beneficiary satisfaction with government services, helping government entities identify areas for improvement and monitor service quality, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 to develop the government sector and enhance institutional performance efficiency.

Mahfoudh Salim Al Musharfi, Director of the Public Opinion Measurement Department at NCSI, said the survey represents an important statistical tool for understanding beneficiaries' experiences with government services and translating their views and experiences into measurable indicators.

These indicators help government entities monitor satisfaction levels and identify priorities and areas for improvement in developing services and enhancing their quality and efficiency.

He added that beneficiary participation and the objective expression of their views are essential to enhancing the accuracy and reliability of the results. He affirmed that the indicators produced by the survey seek to reflect the actual experiences of service users and support government entities in improving services provided to the various segments of society and the business sector.

Al Musharfi affirmed that NCSI attaches great importance to the confidentiality and security of the data and information collected. He noted that the Statistics and Information Law, issued under Royal Decree No. 55/2019, provides for the confidentiality of individual data and prohibits its publication except in aggregated form, as well as its use for purposes other than statistical purposes. This safeguards beneficiaries' privacy and ensures that their identities and individual data are not disclosed.

NCSI held a preparatory meeting last January with representatives of 54 government entities included in the survey, along with a number of specialists from the Centre. The meeting reviewed the survey methodology and enhanced implementation mechanisms, discussed organizational frameworks and identified points of contact with participating entities, while drawing on the results of previous rounds and the challenges encountered during their implementation.

The survey on satisfaction with government services is one of the national statistical tools implemented periodically by NCSI. It includes an evaluation of services provided through various channels, including direct interactions, electronic channels and digital platforms. **-ONA**

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MEETING

His Majesty the Sultan, President Paul Kagame commend growth of bilateral cooperation



< FROM A1 Among the key outcomes of the visit, the two sides agreed to establish resident embassies in both countries, create a Joint Committee and a Joint Business Council, and implement a technical co-operation programme, thereby strengthening diplomatic presence and establishing institutional mechanisms to advance and follow up on cooperation, while supporting the further expansion of the partnership between the two countries.

His Majesty the Sultan and

President Paul Kagame praised the growth of bilateral cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the fields of transport, communications, and information technology.

The visit witnessed the signing of an agreement on mutual visa exemption for holders of official passports, an agreement on the removal of double taxation, and several memoranda of understanding in the fields of political consultations, labor, logistics and inland and dry ports development, agriculture, investment promotion, and strategic partnership & investment activation term sheet.

Commitment
The two leaders exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of common interest, reaffirming their commitment to supporting efforts aimed at achieving security and stability and resolving disputes through peaceful means, in accordance with the principles of international law.

President Paul Kagame praised the role of the Sultanate of Oman in supporting regional

dialogue and peace, while His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik expressed his appreciation for the Republic of Rwanda for its role in achieving stability, and seeking to promote dialogue and peaceful solutions in its region.

At the conclusion of the visit, the President of the Republic of Rwanda expressed his appreciation for the warm hospitality and generous reception extended to him and his delegation, and extended an invitation to His Majesty the Sultan to visit Rwanda.”

-ONA

His Majesty, President of Rwanda hold meeting

< FROM A1 The meeting was attended from the Rwandan side by Olivier Nduhungirehe, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Yusuf Murangwa, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Antoine Kajangwe, Minister of Trade and Industry, Solange Uwituze, Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Juliana Muganza, CEO of Rwanda Development Board, Dan Munyuza, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to the Sultanate of Oman and other officials. -ONA



President of Rwanda leaves Oman after 2-day visit



SALALAH: President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda, and his accompanying delegation left the country on Tuesday following a two-day official visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

The distinguished guest and his accompanying delegation were seen off by His Highness Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar off upon their departure from the Royal Airport in the Wilayat of Salalah.

Also present to bid farewell were Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister; Anwar bin Hilal Al Jabri, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (Head of the Mission of Honor); Nasra bint Salim Al Hashimi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Kenya and Non-Resident Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda; and Dan Munyuza, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

WILAYAT OF SALALAH

Rwanda President visits Museum of Frankincense Land

SALALAH: President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda visited the Museum of the Frankincense Land in the Wilayat of Salalah yesterday, as part of his official visit to the Sultanate of Oman. He was received upon arrival by Eng. Ibrahim bin Said Al Kharousi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Heritage for Heritage, along with a number of ministry officials.

The President of Rwanda and his accompanying delegation toured the museum's halls, receiving a comprehensive briefing on its collections and exhibits, which showcase the cultural and historical heritage of the Sultanate of Oman and its enduring civilisational legacy across the ages.

In the History Hall, which comprises six main sections, the guest



viewed exhibits reflecting the distinctiveness of Omani identity, beginning with the Geography of Oman section, which displays maps and essential information on Oman's terrain and environmental diversity, moving through the

Oman in Ancient Times section, which documents archaeological evidence of early human settlement, the development of crafts and economic activities and the flourishing of the copper trade and relations with the civilisations of

Mesopotamia, India and China.

The President of Rwanda also viewed the Land of Frankincense section, which highlights Dhofar's historical role as a major centre for frankincense production and export and the trade and cultural bridges it established reaching the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and Mesopotamia.

The guest's attention was drawn to the Islam and the People of Oman section, which displays manuscripts and documents chronicling the voluntary embrace of Islam by the people of Oman and their contributions to spreading its values and sciences.

He also explored the Highlights of Omani History section, which presents key milestones in the country's political and civilisational journey.

In the Maritime Hall, the President of Rwanda toured seven sections illustrating the Omani people's enduring connection with the sea and their commercial relations with peoples around the world. He viewed models of traditional vessels and replicas showcasing their mastery of sailing ship construction and boat building.

He received explanations on the Navigation section, which highlights seafaring skills across the ages and the Trade section, which illustrates the network of historic ports — including Samharam, Al Baleed and Sohar — and their pivotal role in connecting the region to global markets.

The guest also viewed the Virtual Sea section, which simulates the environment of ancient navigation and the Renaissance section,

which reflects the achievements made in the ports and maritime transport sector in modern Oman.

His Excellency also toured the Central Bank of Oman's numismatic exhibition, which showcases the Bank's various issues of banknotes and coins, alongside the historic Islamic coinage minted in the Sultanate of Oman up until 1970, in addition to commemorative coins issued by the Central Bank of Oman.

At the conclusion of the visit, the President of Rwanda signed the Distinguished Visitors' Book, expressing his delight at visiting the museum and its cultural and civilisational significance, and affirming its importance in fostering cultural cooperation between the two friendly countries.

-ONA

IN PARIS

Oman participates in UNESCO Digital Learning Week 2026

PARIS: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Education, is participating in UNESCO Digital Learning Week 2026 which is held under the theme "Education in the Age of AI: Facts, Frictions, Frontiers".

The event discusses the future of education amidst the rapid developments of artificial intelligence.

The delegation of the Sultanate of Oman was represented by Majid Said Al Bahri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Administrative and Financial Affairs.



Hosted by UNESCO at its headquarters in Paris and running through 11 September, the week aims to promote a global dialogue on leveraging technology in education.

The event addresses issues of privacy, information safety, equity, and inclusion, in addition to the role of the teacher and learner in digital environments, alongside reviewing international experiences in formulating educational policies that support digital transformation.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Administrative and Financial Affairs highlighted the Sultanate of Oman's experience in devel-

oping digital education infrastructure and enhancing the use of artificial intelligence to support educational practices and decision-making, emphasising the importance of grounding the adoption of AI technologies in education in a clear educational need and added value.

He emphasised the necessity of considering safety, privacy, transparency, cultural and linguistic appropriateness, calculating the total cost of technologies, ensuring data portability, and avoiding reliance on a single provider, pointing to the importance of cooperation with

UNESCO in developing clear frameworks and standards for acquiring AI technologies and exchanging expertise.

On the sidelines of the event, the Undersecretary met with Dr. Martín Benavides, Director of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning. During this meeting, the two sides discussed areas of cooperation in formulating educational strategy, exchanging expertise in educational planning, and developing policies supporting digital transformation and building national capacities in the field of education.

-ONA

REPORT

Workers' remittances rose by 3.1 percent in 2025

<FROM A1 The report pointed out that in 2025, Oman's fiscal position remained resilient, notwithstanding lower oil prices.

The government successfully implemented the State Budget while balancing fiscal sustainability objectives with continued investment in growth-enhancing initiatives.

Fiscal balance recorded a modest deficit of 1.1 percent of GDP. Public debt continued its downward trajectory, with debt-to-GDP ratio declined to 34.6 percent in 2025 from 35.4 percent in 2024. "Continued fiscal consolidation and strengthened macroeconomic fundamentals further improved in Oman's sovereign credit profile, contributed to the restoration of investment-grade status," the report further added.

The external sector remained broadly resilient despite a more challenging external environment

in 2025.

The current account balance recorded a modest deficit of 1.2 percent of GDP. This shift was primarily driven by a 15 percent decline in hydrocarbon exports, reflecting lower oil prices, which fell by 13 percent during the year, as well as stronger import demand associated with major investment and development projects.

Importantly, workers' remittances increased by 3.1 percent in 2025, broadly reflecting the continued expansion of economic activity and favourable labour market conditions.

Meanwhile, the financial account remained supportive of external stability in 2025, with stable net FDI inflows, while Portfolio outflows largely reflected increased foreign asset holdings by the financial sector.

The Exchange rate peg has continued serve as appropriate nominal anchor in light of Oman eco-

nommic structure, while supporting investor confidence and FDI. Within this framework, domestic monetary conditions remained closely aligned to developments in U.S. monetary policy.

In line with the easing US monetary policy cycle and the requirements of the peg, the CBO lowered its policy rate to 4.25 percent by the end of December 2025.

Fiscal discipline

Supported by favourable oil prices, continued fiscal discipline, and ongoing structural reforms, Oman is expected to record sizable fiscal and external surpluses in 2026.

"Fiscal and current account balances are expected to register surpluses at about 2.5 percent and 4.1 percent of GDP respectively, on the back of stronger hydrocarbon revenues and robust growth in non-hydrocarbon exports," the report said.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Used Furniture and Electronics Auction Announcement

Sultan Qaboos University announces its intent to hold a public electronic auction in collaboration with Mzadat Company for the sale of a collection of used furniture and electronics.

Please note that bidding will take place electronically via the website: www.mzadat.om

Auction Period	Viewing Period	Location	Items on Offer
From 14/09/2026 to 15/09/2026	From 13/09/2026 to 14/09/2026 Time 8 AM – 2 PM	Sultan Qaboos University	Used furniture and electronics

Conditions for Entering the Electronic Auction:

- The interested party must register and subscribe on the Mzadat electronic platform (www.mzadat.om).
- The bidder must pay a security deposit of OMR 500 (Five Hundred Omani Rials) via bank transfer. The deposit will be forfeited if the bidder wins the bid but fails to pay for the purchases within the specified payment period.
- The winning bidder is obligated to pay the value of the items within a maximum of three working days after receiving the auction invoice.
- The winning bidder must collect the items they have fully paid for within a maximum of five working days after completing payment. If not collected, the University and Mzadat Company will not be responsible for any loss, damage, or destruction of the items. A penalty of OMR 50 (Fifty Omani Rials) per day of delay will also be imposed.
- Items can be viewed starting from 13/09/2026 until the start of the auction, between 8:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

For more details on viewing arrangements and inquiries, contact the Mzadat team at the following numbers:

Arabic	77402390
English	94693437
Electronic Support	76617644



Tender Announcement

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

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)	
					Small and Medium companies	Local companies
435/2026	Organizing and managing the International Conference on Empowerment and Social Investment in Autism and the accompanying exhibition	Companies specialized in the field of event and event organization services and registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority, with excellent or first degree	Thursday 17-09-2026 02:00 PM	Wednesday 30-09-2026 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O

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

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

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

IN SALALAH



Conference focuses on digital transformation of Arab towns

SALALAH: The Sultanate of Oman hosted the 20th General Conference of the Arab Towns Organisation during which the chairmanship of the organisation's round was handed over from the city of Riyadh to Dhofar Municipality. The Conference was held under the theme "More Innovative and Sustainable Cities".

The two-day conference, held at Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex for Culture and Entertainment in Salalah, concluded on Tuesday under the auspices of HH Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar.

The conference aimed to enhance cooperation among Arab countries and facilitate the exchange of expertise to achieve sustainable development. The discussions focused on urban development, the digital transformation of cities and the challenges posed to the growth of Arab towns. — OMA

FROM CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

His Majesty receives cable of thanks

SALALAH: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from the participants in the 20th General Conference of the Arab Towns Organisation and the 64th Executive Council, held in the Wilayat of Salalah, Dhofar Governorate, during the period from 7-8 September 2026.

Conclusion of the conference

The cable was sent on the occasion of the conclusion of the conference titled "More Innovative and Sustainable Cities".

In the cable, the participants expressed their highest expressions of thanks, appreciation, and gratitude to the Sultanate of Oman for hosting this conference and for the generous hospitality and warm welcome, praising Oman's role in promoting, developing, and humanizing cities to enhance the quality of life.

The participants concluded their cable by praying to Almighty Allah to protect His Majesty the Sultan as an inspiring leader, and to grant the Sultanate of Oman continued progress and prosperity. — OMA

LITERARY INNOVATION COMPETITION

Omani Society for Writers & Literati felicitates winners

'RUSTAQ: South Al Batinah branch of the Omani Society for Writers and Literati on Tuesday held a ceremony to felicitate outstanding students who excelled in the "Literary Innovation Competition" in the Governorate.

The initiative aimed to promote literary and cultural engagement among school students and support promising young talents.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of Eng. Masoud bin Said Al Hashimi, Governor of South Al Batinah, who handed over the awards to top the winners.

— OMA



2026-2027 SEASON

Oman Horse Racing includes 25 races



MUSCAT: Oman Horse Racing Club announced that its 2026-2027 equestrian programme includes 25 races to be held between October 2026 and April 2027.

The season, which will kick off with the first race on 17 October 2026 at the Al Rahba Racecourse, is scheduled to conclude on 17

April 2027.

The programme comprises several important races and events, including the National Day race, the Omani Derby Cup and the annual Royal Cavalry race. One of the season's rounds will be held at Al Wattayah Racecourse affiliated to the Royal Oman Police. — OMA

FOREIGN MINISTRY

Oman condemns attacks in Saudi Arabia

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has condemned the attacks targeting civilian and economic facilities in several cities of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), and expressed its solidarity with Saudi Arabia.

In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry yesterday, Oman voiced its rejection of attacks on civilians, civilian in-

frastructure and commercial vessels, as well as anything that threatens the safety and security of maritime navigation.

It called for joint efforts to contain tensions and create conditions for de-escalation and mutual understanding, paving the way for political and peaceful solutions that safeguard the region's security and stability. — OMA

ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Suspect arrested

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has arrested an individual involved in the theft of electrical cables from multiple locations across oil concession areas.

"The Oil and Gas Facilities Security Police Command, in cooperation with the Al Dhahirah Police Command, arrested a person for stealing electrical cables from several locations in the oil concession areas," ROP said.

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Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 22009004, E-mail: amcoman@choueirigroup.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

Sohar International Wins Excellence for Women in Leadership – Banking



Sohar International was felicitated with the 'The Origin Excellence for Women in Leadership – Banking' 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.

The recognition celebrates Sohar International's continued commitment to empowering women leaders, developing female talent and strengthening women's participation across the banking sector. The bank has consistently emphasised an inclusive workplace culture that supports professional growth, leadership development and equal opportunities for its people.

Sohar International's approach to women's empowerment extends beyond the workplace, with initiatives designed to build leadership capabilities and create pathways for women to take on



greater responsibilities. The bank has supported leadership development programmes aimed at preparing women for institutional leadership roles, while continuing to invest in structured learning and talent development across its workforce. The award recognises Sohar International's role in creating an environment where women can lead, grow and contribute meaningfully to the future of banking. Its continued focus on people, diversity, inclusion and leadership development reflects a broader commitment to building a more progressive and future-ready financial sector in Oman.

The Origin Awards 2026 are instituted by Times of Oman, in collaboration with Muscat Media Group, Gulf Leaders Circle and TEEvents. 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

INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AND SAFETY



Symposium addresses most pressing challenges facing critical infrastructure

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Under the patronage of Khalid bin Salem Al Ghamari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour for Labour Affairs, the 5th Symposium on Critical Infrastructure Security and Safety opened on Tuesday in Salalah.

The event is bringing together more than 350 participants, 35 experts and specialists, and 36 technical papers from Oman, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, the Arab region and the international community.

Being held from 7-9 September, 2026 at the Sultan Qaboos Cultural and Entertainment Centre in Salalah, the symposium addresses some of the most pressing challenges facing critical infrastructure, including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, smart



surveillance, biometric identification, emergency and risk management, business continuity, smart fire protection, and the security of oil & gas, energy, ports and airports.

Brigadier General (Ret.) Eng. Saeed Al Asimi, CEO of the Security and Safety Foundation, stressed that critical infrastructure security is no longer simply

about responding to incidents—it is a proactive national and institutional responsibility built on preparedness, technology, training, data-driven risk analysis and early threat detection.

Running alongside the symposium, the 1st Security & Safety Exhibition showcases the latest technologies, systems and solutions in protection, surveillance,

firefighting, risk management and smart security.

Over three days, Salalah becomes a regional platform for shaping the future of critical infrastructure protection—with one clear message:

Don't wait for the threat to happen. Detect it early, anticipate it, and build the readiness to respond.

Baghaei slams Canada for accusing Iran of ‘destabilising activities’

In a strongly worded post made on X, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson claimed Canada chose to “appease their bullying neighbour” by backing military actions and sanctions against Iran rather than calling for de-escalation

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei on Monday launched a scathing verbal assault against Canada, accusing it of “strategic confusion” and endorsing US-Israel military aggression after Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand and Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne condemned Tehran’s

independent sovereign state. In a strongly worded post made on X, Baghaei claimed Canada chose to “appease their bullying neighbour” by backing military actions and sanctions against Iran rather than calling for de-escalation.



Questioning Ottawa’s diplomatic independence and motives, Baghaei argued that Canadian leaders are misrepresenting the situation in the Persian Gulf. “If freedom of navigation is truly the issue, why does Canada—having itself experienced American bad faith and knowing that U.S. signatures are ‘written in pencil’—choose to support U.S. military aggression and economic terrorism instead of calling for an end to American aggression, blockade, and economic warfare?” Baghaei wrote. “This is neither ‘diplomacy’ nor ‘responsible statecraft,’” he added. “It is a display of strategic confusion and submission to intimidation—a choice that will not even shield Canada itself from American bullying and aggression.” Baghaei also rejected claims that Tehran initiated disruptions in vital trade routes, asserting that “Canada knows full well that the Strait of Hormuz was open and secure before USrael launched a war of aggression against Iran on 28 February.” The sharp reaction from Tehran followed a joint declaration issued by Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand and Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne, in which Ottawa firmly condemned Tehran’s regional actions and maritime threats. “Canada condemns and calls on Iran to immediately end its destabilising activities in the Middle East,” Anand and Champagne wrote in the joint statement. “Iran’s actions, including its continued threats to vessels seeking to transit the Strait of Hormuz, its pursuit of illicit nuclear activities, and its support for regional proxy groups, continue to undermine global peace and security.” — ANI

MARTYRS’ DAY



Nepal’s Gen-Z Day evokes pride in youth power and pain of loss

KATHMANDU: Nepal on Tuesday observed the first ‘Gen Z Martyrs’ Day’ in memory of the Gen Z movement of September 8 and 9, 2025. Recognising the sacrifices of those killed during the protest, a commemoration event was held in Baneshwor in Kathmandu in the presence of the injured, families and next of kin of those killed on the first day of the “Gen-Z uprising”. The ceremony started with the chanting of hymns by the priests calling for the emancipation of the departed souls on the first anniversary of the protest. They lit the lamps in front of the photos of those who died during the protest that brought the wave of political change in the Himalayan Nation. They say the day should not be viewed merely as a public holiday, but as a reminder of the sacrifices made by young people and a renewed commitment to good governance, accountability and a better future. “This government is not fully adopting the spirit of Gen Z nor going the way it should have gone. The government is not very capable of adopting the spirit of Gen Z because of the lack of time, and sometimes it seems that the government officials and the ministers- the stakeholders of Gen Z who are in parliament do not seem to be capable of doing the jobs,” Kiran BK, who took part in last year’s protest and came to the old parliament building to attend the one-year commemoration ceremony, told ANI. Young people, including Gen Z leaders and families of martyrs, have mixed expressions about the present government led by Prime Minister Balendra Shah, saying it has partially raised hopes that the spirit of the movement can be translated into meaningful reforms. The interim government led by Sushila Karki, on November 3, 2025, declared 45 people martyrs, out of which 42 were declared as “Gen Z Governance Warriors” and three police personnel as immortalised police personnel and decided to observe Bhadra 23 of the Nepali calendar (September 8) as Gen Z Martyrs’ Day every year. However, a total of 77 people died during the protests on Sep-

tember 8 and 9, 2025. For many members of Generation Z, the day signifies both pride and pain. “When I think of that day, the only word that comes to my mind is terror. It was very, very difficult for us to go through that day, and after that, now, when we remember the day, it’s only bad memories nothing more than that, nothing less than that, only bad memories. It was blood everywhere; people were crying and terrified,” Astha Shrestha, one of the attendees of the commemoration event who has her office near the former federal parliament, told ANI as she recalled her day a year before. “Obviously there ought to be political changes after all that happened in the last year, though if I think of it as of now, I would say I am not completely satisfied with how the government is going, but also I am not disappointed, so I think that’s a win for us because whatever changes they brought in and sacrifice they made they could do from their side to make Nepal a better place,” Shrestha added. The Gen-Z uprising of September 8 and 9 brought a wave of change in the Himalayan Nation buffered between India and China. The two-day protest, which resulted in the deaths of at least 77 people forcing then communist leader KP Sharma Oli to resign from the post; an interim government was formed after the dissolution of the parliament. The post-mortem report of those killed in police firing in Kathmandu Valley states death due to bullet injuries to the head and chest. During the protest, police were only allowed to fire on the protestors below the knee to control the situation. The Police also used some lethal weapons to crack down on the protestors, following which the former Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak stepped down from the post. But Oli remained adamant about resigning despite rising pressure. The Himalayan nation, after five days of deliberation and debate, appointed Former Chief Justice Sushila Karki as the interim Prime Minister, who recommended dissolving the parliament and held the election on March 5. — ANI

Honouring Excellence in Social Impact

Shabiba Jawa’iz Basma 2026 is a distinguished awards evening that 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.

SCAN TO NOMINATE

For partnerships, table bookings or award nominations, contact:

Syed Amir Saleem: syed.amir@tevents.om | +968 78471944
Sanjeev Rana: sanjeev@tevents.om | +968 97221630
Shamik Rao: shamik.rao@tevents.om | +968 79333149

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SPORTS

Oman book spot in ACC Premier Cup semis despite defeat to UAE

Kulkarni's men finished second in Group B edging Kuwait and Qatar on better net run rate and will take on Nepal on Thursday for a place in final

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman booked their place in the semi-finals of the ACC Men's Premier Cup 2026 despite suffering a 49-run defeat against an unbeaten United Arab Emirates in their final Group B encounter at the YSD-UKM Cricket Oval in Bangi, Malaysia, on Tuesday.

Despite the defeat, Sulakshan Kulkarni's men had done enough in their earlier matches to finish among the top two in Group B, edging through on net run rate (NRR). Oman finished with an NRR of +0.649 after a three-way tie with Qatar (+0.227) and Kuwait (+0.152), with all three teams earning four points each.

UAE, meanwhile, completed a perfect group campaign with four wins from four matches to finish at the top of Group B.

The runner-up finish means Oman will meet Group A winners and fancied Nepal in the semi-finals on Thursday, September 10. Nepal topped Group A with six points and an NRR of +1.531, while Hong Kong finished second on six points with a lower NRR of -0.005.

On Tuesday, Oman captain Vinayak Shukla won the toss and elected to field, with his bowlers recovering well after initially struggling against a strong UAE start.



Having restricted UAE to 192, the target appeared within Oman's reach. But the chase unravelled almost immediately.

Oman lost Karan Sonavale for four in the first over and suffered a dramatic top-order collapse as Jatinder Singh, Mujibur Ali and Jay Odedra all departed cheaply.

Oman were reeling at 13 for four inside 3.1 overs, leaving the middle order with a mountain to climb.

Hammad Mirza attempted to stabilise the innings with a 35-ball 17 before all-rounder Jiten Ramanandi produced the standout batting performance for Oman.

Ramanandi played a fighting knock of 51 from 70 balls, striking six fours and a six, and helped Oman recover from their disastrous start. He found some support from captain and wicketkeeper Vinayak Shukla, who scored 14, but Oman were unable to build any substantial partnerships.

When Ramanandi fell at 107



for seven in the 26th over, Oman's hopes of chasing down the target were effectively extinguished. Debutant Sanju Sajeew showed promise with an unbeaten 15 from 27 balls, but with little support from the rest, the UAE bowlers wrapped up the innings for 143 in 34.5 overs.

Left-arm spinner Aayan Afzal Khan was the architect of Oman's collapse, producing a superb all-round performance to claim 5 for 34 after scoring a valuable 37 with the bat. He was named Player of the Match. Khuzaima Tanveer struck early and returned 3 for 21, while Ibrar Ahmad and Adeeb Usmani took a wicket apiece.

Earlier, UAE openers Tanish Suri and Adeeb Usmani gave their team a solid platform with a 92-run opening-wicket stand. Suri top-scored with 48 off 53 balls, including six fours and two sixes, while Usmani contributed 40 from 65 deliveries.

However, Oman struck regularly after the opening partnership was

broken by Nadeem Khan, who removed Suri. Hassnain Shah then sent back Usmani to leave UAE at 98 for two before Jay Odedra's spell turned the tables.

Skipper Harpreet Singh, Rahul Chopra and Sohaib Khan fell in quick succession as UAE slipped to 105 for five.

Odedra was particularly effective, returning figures of 3 for 17 from 5.1 overs, while Shah claimed 3 for 48. Shakeel Ahmed also produced a disciplined spell, taking 2 for 29 from his 10 overs.

Mujibur Ali and Nadeem Khan picked up a wicket each as Oman dismissed UAE for 192 in 48.1 overs. Akshdeep Nath, who scored 33, and Aayan Afzal Khan, with 37, helped rebuild the innings before Oman again struck in the closing stages.

While the result belonged emphatically to UAE, the bigger picture offered Oman considerable relief. Their two victories in the group stage, including the massive 131-run win over Singapore, proved crucial in their qualification campaign.

Oman had begun the tournament in commanding fashion by posting 316 for nine against Singapore before bowling them out for 185, a result that gave them a significant boost in the race for the knockout stages.

Their five-wicket victory over Qatar further strengthened their position before the loss to Kuwait on September 5 and Tuesday's defeat against UAE.

Oman will now have the opportunity to put Tuesday's setback behind them and focus on the much bigger prize on Thursday, when they battle for a place in the final.

Brief scores: UAE 192 all out in 48.1 overs (Tanish Suri 48, Adeeb Usmani 40, Aayan Afzal Khan 37; Jay Odedra 3-17, Hassnain Shah 3-48, Shakeel Ahmed 2-29) beat Oman 143 all out in 34.5 overs (Jiten Ramanandi 51; Aayan Afzal Khan 5-34, Khuzaima Tanveer 3-21) by 49 runs.

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OMAN OIL PRICE RISES

The price of Oman crude oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2026 reaching \$116.53. The price of Oman crude oil rose by \$11.99 from the price of Monday, which was \$104.54. **-OMA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 7,613.47 points, up by 0.10% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.30% at 619.31 points. Majan College, up 5.97%, was the top gainer while, National Detergent, down 2.93%, was the top loser.

DEEPENING COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Oman and Rwanda sign two agreements and six MoUs



SALALAH: The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Rwanda today signed two agreements and six memoranda of understanding at Al Hosn Palace in Salalah, during the official visit of President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda to Oman. The agreements and MoUs aimed at deepening cooperation and partnership between the two countries.

The first agreement provides for mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, service and special passports, while the second covers

the removal of double taxation.

The memoranda of understanding encompassed agriculture, logistics, land and dry port development, supply chain services, investment promotion, labour, strategic partnership and investment activation.

The agreements and MoUs were signed from the Omani side by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister; Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance; Anwar bin Hilal Al Jabri, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Ali bin Talib

Al Maawali, Chief Commercial Officer at Oman Aviation Investment.

On the Rwandan side, the agreement and MoUs were signed by Olivier Nduhugirehe, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Yusuf Murangwa, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Antoine Kajangwe, Minister of Trade and Industry, Solange Uwituze, Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and Juliana Muganza, CEO of Rwanda Development Board. **-OMA**

VISIT TO INDIA

IMF official hails India's economic performance

NEW DELHI: International Monetary Fund (IMF) Deputy Managing Director Nigel Clarke acknowledged India's economic performance and resilience amid the current global environment during a meeting with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday, the Ministry of Finance said.

Clarke, who is on a visit to India, also acknowledged the government's fiscal consolidation efforts and measures taken following the West Asian crisis, according to the ministry.

"Mr. Nigel Clarke acknowledged India's economic performance, resilience and growth track record in the current global scenario, and Government of India's efforts for fiscal consolidation and support measures in the aftermath of the West Asian crisis," the Finance Ministry said in a post on X.

Sitharaman and Clarke discussed the outlook for the Indian and global economies, including India's evolving growth trajectory and the impact of changes in the global economic environment. The discussions also covered India's trade agenda, developments in the global trading system and the country's recently concluded bilateral trade agreements. The meeting comes at a time when higher energy prices following the West Asian conflict have emerged as a risk to India's growth outlook. **-ANI**

Oman's banking sector remains strong, resilient

The sector continued to play a pivotal role in supporting economic activity through effective financial intermediation, mobilising savings and channeling funds to productive sectors of the economy



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The banking sector remained well-capitalised, liquid, and resilient, supported by sound asset quality, prudent risk management practices, and limited exposure to external shocks, the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) said in its latest Annual Report for 2025.

Throughout the year, the CBO continued to ensure that the banking sector effectively served the needs of the real economy. The sector continued to play a pivotal role in supporting economic activity through effective financial intermediation, mobilising savings and channeling funds to productive sectors of the economy. Supported

by sustained economic activity and strong public confidence, the sector continued to expand in 2025.

Total banking sector assets increased by 9.2 percent to reach OMR44.6 billion at end-December 2025. Total credit increased to OMR35.3 billion, showing a growth of 8.8 percent over 2024. Aggregate deposits of banks increased by 7

percent in 2025 to reach OMR34 billion by end-December. Credit to the private sector increased by 6.8 percent, reflecting continued financing demand across key sectors of the economy.

Profitability indicators continued to reflect healthy earnings performance, while asset quality remained stable, with the gross

non-performing loans (NPLs) ratio contained at 4.4 percent as of December 2025.

Banks also maintained strong capital buffers, with the capital adequacy ratio reaching 18.8 percent, well above the regulatory minimum requirement of 13.5 percent. Liquidity conditions remained comfortable, supported by ample funding and compliance with prudential liquidity requirements.

CBO's latest report reviewed the domestic economic environment, highlighting trends in real activity, inflation, fiscal and external positions, and the performance of the banking sector.

Oman's macroeconomic environment remained supportive in 2025, with economic activity continuing to expand at a robust pace, despite external headwinds.

This provided the Government with the necessary policy space to advance structural reforms. Investment continued to be an important driver of growth, supported by continued progress in strategic projects across both the public and private sectors.

Inflation remained low, reflecting the credibility of the peg and stable domestic conditions. Fiscal and external balances recorded modest deficits, while public debt continued its declining path.

ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

BankDhofar drives advancement of professional asset management in Oman

MUSCAT: As Oman accelerates toward the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, professional asset management has moved to the centre of the Sultanate's economic transformation. BankDhofar is committed to leading this evolution — mobilising savings, deepening capital market opportunities and directing capital toward productive opportunities across local, regional and international markets.

Asset managers perform a role that extends well beyond generating returns. They channel capital efficiently, preserve and grow wealth, and connect investors with opportunity based on acceptable risk metrics for investors. For institutional investors — pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, corporates, endowments and family businesses — the requirements are broader still, encompassing liquidity management, capital preservation, diversification, risk management, governance and long-term portfolio resilience.

These demands have intensified in an environment shaped by shifting interest rates, AI Capex cycle, geopolitical developments and volatility across global financial markets. Institutions increasingly seek investment managers that combine deep knowledge of the local and regional landscape with access to international opportunities that generate medium to long term value creation to investors — and BankDhofar has built its asset management capabilities to deliver precisely that combination.

"Professional asset management is fundamental to how institutions and individuals in Oman will build, grow and protect wealth over the coming decade," said Juma Al Jabri, Assistant General Manager — Treasury & Investment

Banking, BankDhofar. "Our objective is not simply to offer investment products, but to establish long-term partnerships built on disciplined asset allocation, robust governance, transparent reporting, and a clear understanding of each investor's objectives. We have invested in experienced professionals, institutional platforms, and rigorous investment processes that combine our understanding of Oman and the region with carefully selected global opportunities."

Multi-asset approach built on discipline

BankDhofar's asset management team brings capabilities across money markets, public equities, fixed income, real estate and private markets. This breadth allows portfolios to be approached from a genuine multi-asset perspective, with investment solutions structured around each client's objectives, risk profile, liquidity requirements, and investment horizon. Effective investment management begins with a clear understanding of the purpose of the capital — its objectives, liabilities, liquidity requirements and time horizon. From there, BankDhofar develops the investment strategy, constructs and manages the investments, monitors risk continuously and provides transparent reporting that supports informed decision-making and strong governance, whether through collective funds or individually managed portfolios.

At the core of this approach is a strong governance framework, supported by clear investment mandates, defined risk parameters, disciplined oversight, and transparent performance measurement. This ensures that investment decisions remain aligned



with client objectives and can be assessed consistently throughout the market cycle.

"The quality of an investment strategy should not be judged by returns alone. It should also be assessed by the risks taken, the liquidity maintained, the governance applied, and the consistency with which the portfolio fulfils its intended purpose," added Al Jabri. "This risk-adjusted approach is especially important for institutions with long-term obligations and clearly defined fiduciary responsibilities."

For corporates and institutions holding significant cash balances, professionally managed money-market and fixed-income strategies can support the optimization of liquidity while maintaining a firm focus on capital preservation.

For longer-term portfolios, diversification across asset classes provides access to distinct sources of return. Public equities offer participation in corporate earnings and economic growth, while fixed-

income investments can provide income, stability, and greater predictability of cash flows. Real estate and private-market investments can contribute additional diversification and support long-term value creation.

The appropriate allocation between these asset classes depends on each investor's objectives, liquidity requirements, risk tolerance, and investment horizon. This reinforces the importance of disciplined asset allocation rather than relying on short-term market movements or individual investment products.

Extending institutional discipline to private wealth

The same investment discipline is becoming increasingly relevant for private investors. Rising financial awareness and greater access to regional and international markets are encouraging individuals to adopt more structured approaches to creating, preserving, and transferring wealth.

BankDhofar's investment funds and managed portfolios are built on the same institutional principles applied to larger portfolios. They are designed to serve a range of client objectives, whether the priority is generating income, preparing for retirement, preserving capital, funding future commitments, or transferring wealth across generations.

For individual clients, these investment services are delivered through the Bank's Private Banking and Wealth Management segments. Dedicated relationship managers help ensure that each portfolio remains aligned with the client's financial objectives, liquidity needs, investment horizon, and risk tolerance.

This model brings together the investment expertise of the asset-management team with professional advice, personalized client service, disciplined portfolio oversight, and transparent reporting.

It also reflects a broader shift in the approach to private wealth. Rather than focusing solely on individual investment products or short-term returns, investors are increasingly considering how their overall portfolios can be structured to meet multiple financial objectives across different stages of life and across generations.

Aligned with Oman Vision 2040

The development of professional asset management carries wider significance for Oman.

By mobilizing institutional and private savings, broadening participation in financial markets, and directing capital towards productive investments, the asset-management industry can contribute to deeper capital markets and a

more efficient allocation of financial resources. These objectives are closely aligned with Oman Vision 2040 and its ambition to build a diversified, competitive, and investment-driven economy.

A stronger asset-management industry can also encourage the development of a broader range of investment solutions, support greater institutional participation in the domestic market, and connect investors with opportunities arising from Oman's continuing economic transformation.

"A mature asset-management industry can make a meaningful contribution to Oman's economic transformation," said Al Jabri.

"It can help convert savings into productive capital, broaden institutional participation in local markets, and support the development of investable opportunities across the economy. This is how asset management can contribute not only to individual portfolio outcomes, but also to the depth, efficiency, and resilience of Oman's financial system."

This broader contribution is particularly important as Oman continues to develop its financial markets, attract investment, diversify sources of economic growth, and strengthen the role of the private sector.

Professional asset managers can help connect capital providers with productive investment opportunities while applying the governance, risk-management, and reporting standards required by institutional and private investors.

As Oman's economy and financial markets continue to evolve, BankDhofar intends to play a broader role in shaping the next phase of the Sultanate's investment landscape.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Majan College, up 5.97%, was the top gainer while, National Detergent, down 2.93%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,613.47 points, up by 0.10% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.30% at 619.31 points. Majan College, up 5.97%, was the top gainer while, National Detergent, down 2.93%, 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 10083 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 42.14 million, with more than 158.99 million shares changing hands. Out of 78 traded securities, 20 advanced, 27 declined, and 31 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 1298K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 1132K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 165K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 13,445.34 points, up 0.39%. Prices of Muscat Finance, Oman Arab Bank, Oman & Emirates Investment, Sohar International Bank,

Al Anwar Investment were up by 2.99%, 2.31%, 1.60%, 1.58%, 1.55% respectively. Prices of Financial Corporation, National Finance, Bank Dhofar, DIDIC, Ominvest were down by 1.96%, 1.37%, 0.49%, 0.34%, 0.24% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 9,880.65 points, down -0.27%. Prices of Raysut Cement, Oman Flour Mills, Oman Cement, A'Saffa Foods were up by 1.09%, 0.51%, 0.16%, 0.13% respectively. Prices of National Detergent, Galfar Engineering, Al Anwar Ceramics, Voltamp Energy, Jazeera Steel Products were down by 2.93%, 1.29%, 0.64%, 0.53%, 0.44% respectively.

Services Index was down by -0.24% before closing at 3,064.16 points. Prices of Majan College, Al Maha Marketing, Phoenix Power, Phoenix Power, Oman Telecom were up by 5.97%, 2.07%, 0.35%, 0.35%, 0.29% respectively. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company, Abraj Energy, Ooredoo, National Gas, Renaissance Services were down by 1.22%, 0.98%, 0.92%, 0.87%, 0.69% respectively. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	7,631.71	7,594.77	7,613.47	7,605.90	7.57	0.10
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,472.58	13,386.60	13,445.34	13,392.99	52.35	0.39
Industry Index	9,944.21	9,863.96	9,880.65	9,907.88	-27.23	-0.27
Services Index	3,085.54	3,059.68	3,064.16	3,071.66	-7.51	-0.24
MSX Shariah Index	622.87	618.32	619.31	621.16	-1.86	-0.30
MSX TR INDEX	11,832.12	11,774.85	11,803.84	11,792.10	11.74	0.10
FINANCIAL TR IDX	16,563.84	16,458.13	16,530.34	16,465.98	64.36	0.39
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	12,736.01	12,633.22	12,654.61	12,689.48	-34.87	-0.27
SERVICES TR IDX	4,142.94	4,108.22	4,114.22	4,124.31	-10.08	-0.24
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
158,990,867	42,139,998	10,083	39,277,187,539	20	27	31	78

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (KD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																	
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODS MRKTNG	5,000	6,175	1	1,235	1,235	1,235	1,235	1,210	0.025	2.066	1,235	1,210	1,230	0.100	85,215,000	
OM0000001881	OMAN EMIRATES HO	10,912	12,570	14	0.126	0.127	0.123	0.127	0.125	0.002	1.600	0.127	0.124	0.127	0.100	16,252,031	
OM0000003386	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	68,514,850	13,972,823	1,643	0.190	0.193	0.190	0.193	0.190	0.003	1.579	0.193	0.171	0.193	0.100	1,481,469,095	
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	530,947	103,146	10	0.195	0.198	0.194	0.197	0.194	0.003	1.546	0.197	0.175	0.200	0.100	60,579,375	
OM0000002786	BANK MUSCAT	13,978,935	5,776,200	1,470	0.413	0.416	0.412	0.415	0.412	0.003	0.728	0.415	0.453	0.415	0.100	3,115,154,781	
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	304,640	44,734	33	0.145	0.148	0.145	0.147	0.146	0.001	0.885	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.100	328,832,096	
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	46,804	13,268	19	0.284	0.285	0.281	0.285	0.284	0.001	0.352	0.285	0.284	0.285	0.100	416,841,416	
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	2,718,537	3,771,904	325	1.384	1.396	1.375	1.389	1.385	0.004	0.289	1.389	1.384	1.389	0.100	1,041,750,000	
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,400	855	7	0.610	0.611	0.610	0.611	0.610	0.001	0.164	0.611	0.595	0.611	0.100	202,163,226	
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	51,809	38,049	15	0.745	0.750	0.710	0.750	0.749	0.001	0.134	0.750	0.725	0.760	0.100	90,000,000	
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	100	94	1	0.335	0.335	0.335	0.335	0.335	0.000	0.000	0.335	0.316	0.330	0.100	33,175,000	
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	4,956	16,899	7	3.430	3.430	3.430	3.430	3.430	0.000	0.000	3.430	3.426	3.430	0.100	307,671,000	
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	2,900	740	1	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.000	0.255	0.253	0.259	0.100	10,924,963	
OM0000000287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	100	44	1	0.435	0.435	0.435	0.435	0.435	0.000	0.000	0.435	0.435	0.440	0.100	21,898,934	
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	34,500	3,036	4	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.100	31,339,202	
OM0000002440	AL SHARGIYA INVESTMENT HO	12,760	1,314	4	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.102	0.103	0.100	927,000	
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	7,600	1,429	4	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.000	0.000	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.100	37,531,493	
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	91,190	10,212	16	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.112	0.111	0.112	0.100	19,600,000	
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	89,678	17,694	19	0.198	0.200	0.198	0.199	0.199	0.000	0.000	0.199	0.199	0.199	0.100	134,302,599	
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	29,850	5,912	12	0.198	0.199	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.000	0.000	0.198	0.197	0.198	0.100	141,452,455	
OM0000000759	QJ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	8,682,164	4,128,935	468	0.475	0.478	0.474	0.475	0.475	0.000	0.000	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.010	3,800,000,000	
OM0000001020	ASTAD SHIPPING	5,494,855	1,301,416	1,055	0.237	0.241	0.234	0.236	0.236	0.000	0.000	0.236	0.235	0.236	0.000	1,229,263,650	
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	250	330	1	1.319	1.319	1.319	1.320	1.320	-0.001	-0.078	1.319	1.188	0.000	0.100	80,821,725	
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	123,000	59,738	13	0.490	0.490	0.485	0.489	0.490	-0.001	-0.204	0.489	0.485	0.489	0.100	795,087,768	
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	34,671	14,289	4	0.413	0.413	0.412	0.412	0.413	-0.001	-0.242	0.412	0.412	0.414	0.100	462,615,813	
OM0000001509	DHOFAH INT'L DEVELOPMENT & INVEST	65,320	19,105	15	0.286	0.286	0.291	0.294	0.295	-0.001	-0.339	0.294	0.291	0.294	0.100	145,840,505	
OM0000004735	SEMOBOP SALALAH	12,000	3,065	19	0.362	0.362	0.357	0.358	0.359	-0.001	-0.386	0.358	0.357	0.358	0.100	246,279,563	
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	31,000	28,317	10	0.920	0.920	0.909	0.909	0.913	-0.004	-0.438	0.909	0.915	0.909	0.100	41,535,246	
OM0000000072	QJ GAS NETWORKS	18,604,139	4,367,400	1,752	0.225	0.225	0.221	0.223	0.224	-0.001	-0.446	0.223	0.222	0.223	0.100	965,729,134	
OM0000000249	BANK DHOFAH	1,720,355	354,016	351	0.207	0.209	0.205	0.205	0.206	-0.001	-0.485	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.100	623,158,699	
OM0000000361	VOLTAMP ENERGY	106,485	19,857	42	0.190	0.190	0.186	0.188	0.189	0.000	0.000	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.100	188,000,000	
OM0000000224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	88,400	23,806	26	0.282	0.285	0.280	0.280	0.282	0.002	0.685	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.100	68,548,900	
OM0000000908	QJ BASE INDUSTRIES (SF2)	19,136,531	4,891,402	1,547	0.258	0.258	0.254	0.255	0.257	-0.002	-0.778	0.255	0.255	0.257	0.040	882,170,167	
OM0000000368	OOREDOO	1,123,081	367,283	126	0.328	0.329	0.322	0.322	0.325	0.000	0.000	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.324	0.100	209,604,042
OM0000000894	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,406,890	569,995	194	0.408	0.408	0.403	0.403	0.407	-0.004	-0.983	0.403	0.403	0.440	0.100	310,390,600	
OM0000000041	BARKA WATER AND POWER	22,720	3,591	6	0.164	0.164	0.158	0.162	0.164	-0.002	-1.220	0.158	0.150	0.158	0.100	25,920,000	
Total		36	144,178,289	39,051,790	9,227												

Parallel Market

OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	100	14	1	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.134	0.008	5.970	0.142	0.137	0.140	0.100	14,058,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	1,100	76	2	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.069	0.067	0.002	2.985	0.069	0.066	0.069	0.100	21,193,096
OM0000000520	OMAN ARAB BANK	736,175	192,783	101	0.260	0.268	0.260	0.266	0.260	0.006	2.308	0.266	0.268	0.267	0.100	532,729,727
OM0000000371	SOHAR POWER	2,400	533	1	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.218	0.004	1.835	0.222	0.220	0.222	0.100	4,440,000
OM0000000710	AMAN REAL ESTATE	200	14	2	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.001	1.449	0.070	0.068	0.070	0.100	14,000,000
OM0000000186	MUSCAT INSURANCE	630	321	1	0.510	0.510	0.510	0.510	0.505	0.005	0.990	0.510	0.510	0.510	1.000	5,622,773
OM0000001151	OMIFCO	12,118,175	2,636,555	472	0.216	0.219	0.216	0.218	0.216	0.002	0.926	0.218	0.217	0.218	0.000	1,458,283,750
OM00000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	3,450	2,029	4	0.588	0.588	0.588	0.588	0.585	0.003	0.513	0.588	0.588	0.590	0.100	102,102,525
OM00000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	1,000	1,100	1	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.100	0.000	1.100	0.100	55,000,000
OM00000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	1,747	398	1	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.000	0.000	0.228	0.220	0.228	0.100	7,385,376
OM00000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	342,955	26,337	31	0.075	0.078	0.075	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.076	0.079	0.100	3,181,700
OM00000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	4,400	308	2	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.070	0.071	0.100	1,491,000
OM00000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	4,510	3,405	10	0.755	0.755	0.755	0.755	0.755	0.000	0.000	0.755	0.754	0.790	0.100	717,250,000
OM00000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	83,777	5,059	19	0.062	0.062	0.060	0.062	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.060	0.062	0.100	15,500,000
OM00000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	740	196	1	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.000	0.000	0.265	0.265	0.260	0.100	14,575,000
OM00000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	580	52	1	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.087	0.091	0.100	13,843,986
OM00000007407	DHOFAIR GENERATING	1,200	100	1	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.080	0.085	0.100	18,445,920
OM00000008447	OMAN RETI FUND	21,298	2,277	4	0.107	0.107	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.100	89,222,313
OM00000010823	OMAN GETWAY FUND.	1,300	1,362	2	1.048	1.048	1.048	1.048	1.052	-0.004	-0.380	1.048	1.048	1.150	0.000	28,741,233
OM00000008868	THE PEARL REIF	45,976	8,202	7	0.178	0.180	0.178	0.179	0.180	-0.001	-0.556	0.179	0.178	0.180	0.100	105,867,202
OM00000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	506,886	79,847	53	0.160	0.160	0.155	0.156	0.157	-0.001	-0.637	0.156	0.156	0.155	0.100	34,320,000
OM00000001160	NATIONAL GAS	215,693	24,752	39	0.118	0.118	0.114	0.114	0.115	-0.001	-0.870	0.114	0.113	0.114	0.100	9,990,000
OM00000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	151,750	29,355	22	0.157	0.157	0.153	0.153	0.155	-0.002	-1.250	0.153	0.151	0.154	0.100	31,056,928
OM00000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	50,000	10,800	1	0.216	0.216	0.216	0.216	0.216	-0.003	-1.376	0.216	0.214	0.216	0.100	14,040,000
OM00000001178	MUSCAT GAS	11,800	1,650	3	0.138	0.140	0.138	0.138	0.140	-0.002	-1.429	0.138	0.134	0.139	0.100	4,410,000
OM00000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	4,100	402	4	0.098	0.100	0.098	0.100	0.102	-0.002	-1.961	0.100	0.092	0.100	0.100	7,002,996
OM00000003265	NATIONAL DETERGENT	400	252	1	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.649	-0.019	-2.928	0.630	0.600	0.630	0.100	12,600,000
Total	27		14,312,426	3,022,178	787											



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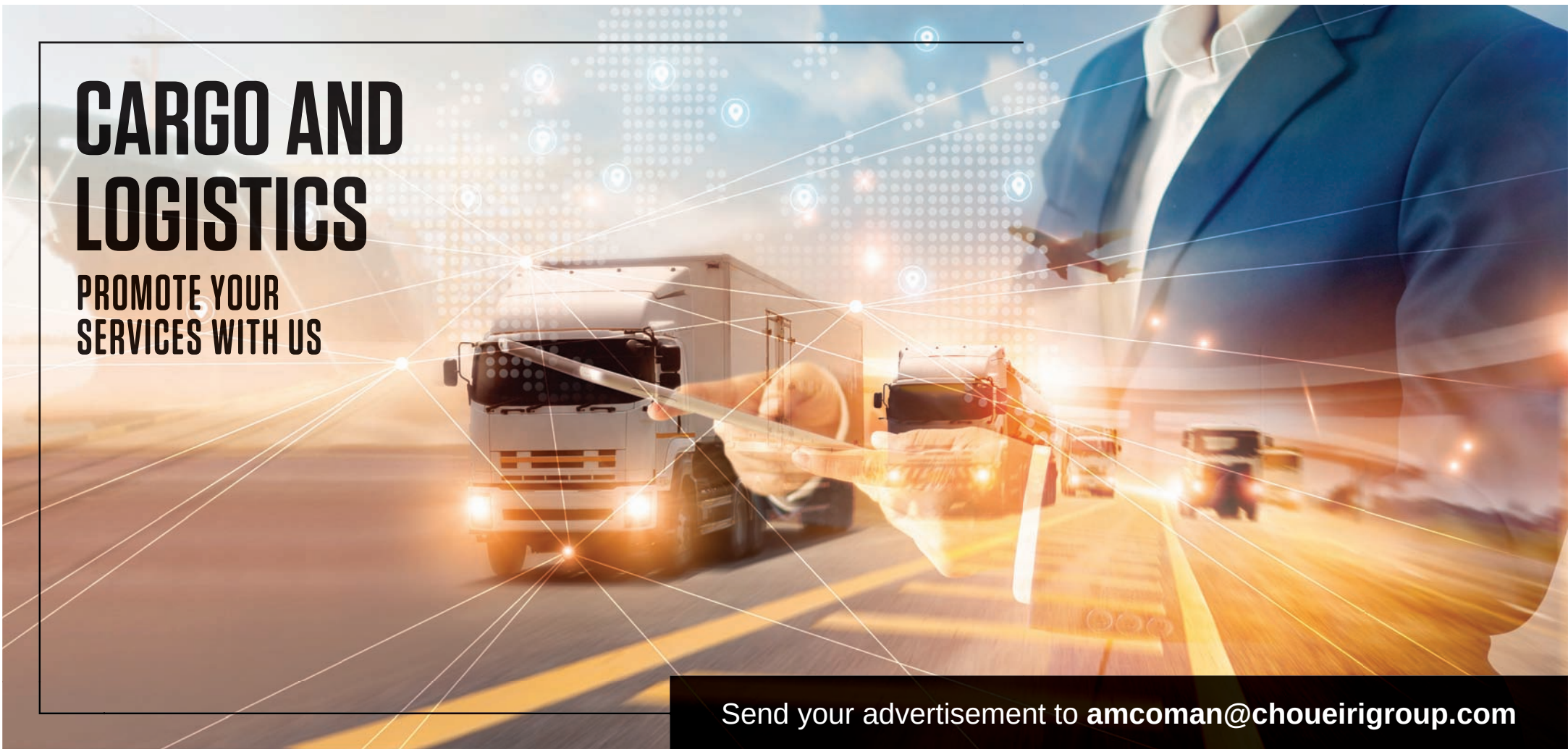
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India, Russia want peaceful solution to Ukraine conflict: Kremlin spokesperson

Speaking to reporters via a virtual briefing from Moscow, Kremlin spokesperson said Russia is aware of India's position on the Ukraine conflict and welcomed New Delhi's willingness to contribute to efforts towards its resolution



sition on the Ukraine conflict and welcomed New Delhi's willingness to contribute to efforts towards its resolution. "We know the position of India on the Ukrainian conflict, and to a great extent, it corresponds with our own position, because we do want the solution of the Ukrainian conflict by peaceful means, and Russia is open to this process," Peskov said. He also said Russia welcomes India's willingness to contribute to the process. "We welcome the willingness of the Indian side to contribute," Peskov said. Peskov further said Russia welcomes the efforts of US President

Donald Trump. "We welcome the efforts of American President Trump," he said. The Kremlin spokesperson asserted that Russia had never wanted the war, saying Moscow was seeking to stop the conflict that had been launched earlier. "We actually never wanted this war. What we're trying to do, we're trying to stop the war that was launched before, and it was not launched by us," Peskov said. Peskov also said the upcoming bilateral meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi would provide an opportunity to discuss the Ukraine conflict and

wider international issues. "It will be another opportunity for President Putin to inform his Indian friend on the current situation on the front, on the war with Ukraine, and it will be a great opportunity for exchange of opinions on international issues," he said. Ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India for the BRICS Summit that gets underway on September 12 in New Delhi, Peskov also detailed expectations for the high-level engagement, confirming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a bilateral meeting with the Russian leader, which is likely on Friday, September 11. Peskov said, "We're looking forward to the President and Prime Minister having another bilateral meeting during the visit. It is scheduled. It is scheduled for Friday, so first, like always, they will touch on the bilateral agenda. Trade and economic cooperation is a very wide scope." Ahead of the visit, Peskov stated that the visit is an opportunity for the two countries to discuss issues of bilateral relations, while also wishing India success in hosting the summit. Elaborating further, Peskov added, "In a couple of days, President Putin will begin his India visit. You know that our two leaders, Indian and Russian leaders, are in very close personal contact. They are very pragmatic in their relation-

ship, and they are sincere as to be able to discuss in a very open and constructive way the most sensitive issues of our agenda and our bilateral relations. Of course, it opens additional horizons for our cooperation." He noted, "We have no doubt that the summit will be successful. Russia, we are doing our best to contribute to further development of BRICS cooperation in the three main pillars of our interaction. So, those are policy and security, economy and finance, and cultural and humanitarian contexts. So, we are supporting the idea of inviting new countries to join different formats within BRICS." Kremlin spokesperson also highlighted Russia's engagements beyond hydrocarbon cooperation with India and called New Delhi a very important player in the global majority, underlining the expanding bilateral partnership across energy, payments, nuclear cooperation, and education. Peskov said Moscow considers India an important contributor to processes involving the "global majority". "We consider India as the biggest country in terms of population in the world, as the biggest democracy in the world. We consider India to be a very, very important player in the global majority, as we call it, and of course we do appreciate that India is really contributing to various processes in the global majority a lot," he said.

Speaking to reporters via a virtual briefing from Moscow, Peskov said Russia's engagement with India goes beyond hydrocarbon supplies and also covers the nuclear energy sector. "I'm not speaking only about hydrocarbon supplies to India, but also the nuclear sphere. You know that Russia is one of the global leaders in the nuclear sphere, and we are a country that is involved in the construction of nuclear units in the world. So we're constructing more nuclear units currently than any other country in the world," Peskov said. He also highlighted the growing use of national currencies in payment exchanges, saying businesses from both countries are exploring new payment mechanisms. "Also, we are increasing, and now the majority of our payment exchanges are being done in national currencies, and our business is exploring this new field of payment," he said. The Kremlin spokesperson also highlighted educational ties between the two countries, noting the growing number of Indian students studying in Russia. "Lots of Indian students are coming to study in Russia, and then we welcome Indian students. We were glad that they're staying with us in our country and getting their education here. So we hope that this field of cooperation will also be enhanced," Peskov said.

— ANI

ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY TENSIONS

EU unveils €200mn Greenland package

OSLO: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen unveiled a 200-million-euro investment package for Greenland during an official visit to Nuuk, designed to bolster cooperation between the European Union and the territory. According to a press release issued by the European Commission, the Global Gateway Partnership Package is slated to support investments across Greenland throughout 2026 and 2027. Formal proceedings in Nuuk on Monday (local time) saw von der Leyen, Greenlandic Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen, and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen execute a joint declaration to reinforce their partnership. Following the signing ceremony, von der Leyen shared her perspective on X.

"It reflects a clear choice by Greenland to strengthen ties with the EU. In order to protect its values, freedom and interests, Europe is making a choice too: To be more present and more engaged in Greenland and in the Arctic," von der Leyen stated on X. Official statements indicate the agreement and accompanying capital allocation will broaden cooperation across educational sectors and fisheries, alongside backing for satellite and cable connectivity, hydropower generation, and critical raw materials. Additional provisions within the funding package target support for better housing, sustainable tourism, and small businesses. Characterising the territory as a reliable partner, von der Leyen addressed the release announcement directly. — ANI

A PROPOSED LEVY

Trump backs new H-1B fee in Labour Day push to prioritise US workers

WASHINGTON, DC: United States President Donald Trump utilised his Labour Day proclamation to champion a proposed levy concerning H-1B visa applications, asserting that the measure would incentivise domestic firms to prioritise local employment before seeking personnel abroad. "To ensure we are hiring and training American workers, we are proposing a new fee on H-1B visa petitions that will encourage companies to invest in qualified Americans before looking overseas for labour," Trump stated in the Monday proclamation issued in local time. By incorporating this stance, the presidential address directly integrated the highly scrutinised H-1B framework into a broader address centred on industrial production, commercial tariffs, and domestic employment security. The mechanism is frequently



utilised by technology enterprises and various employers to recruit skilled international specialists, with Indian citizens traditionally representing the largest segment of recipients, making policy adjustments a subject of significant interest in India and amongst the expatriate professional population

in the United States. Clarifying the implementation status, the referenced financial requirement does not constitute a newly enacted tariff introduced on Monday. The Department of Homeland Security previously advanced a rule proposing a USD 103,265 charge for cap-subject H-1B applications, encompassing those qualifying for advanced-degree exemptions, which would be collected upon filing alongside standard immigration costs to support administrative expenses. Framing the initiative within a wider fiscal agenda favouring local personnel, Trump remarked on manufacturing shifts. "After decades of disastrous trade policies that surrendered our industrial strength to foreign nations, companies are now returning home, investing trillions

of dollars into the United States economy, and adding over 900,000 American jobs," Trump stated. Attributing industrial resilience to protective duties, the administration noted consecutive months of manufacturing growth. "Our Nation is entering a bold new era of American manufacturing, technological innovation, and economic prosperity -- powered by the might of the American worker," Trump said. The official text designated September 7 as Labour Day to recognise employee contributions. This follows a previous attempt by the administration to institute a \$100,000 fee for incoming H-1B entrants, which was invalidated by a Massachusetts federal judge in June due to executive overreach, followed by an appeals court denial in July regarding a requested stay. — ANI

AL HAOUZ REGION

3 years on, Morocco earthquake victims still wait for help

MARRAKECH: On September 8, 2023, a devastating earthquake struck the Al Haouz region in Morocco, killing over 2,900 people, injuring more than 5,500 and causing widespread destruction. In the village of Ighermene in the High Atlas Mountains, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) southwest of Marrakech, Mohamed Ait Belaid, 72, feels like things are actually going pretty well for him three years later. He had been living in a tent after the earthquake but now resides in a newly built house, even though it's smaller than the one destroyed in the earthquake. "I benefited from partial [state] support and received 80,000 dirhams [around €7,300] for rebuilding," he told DW. "I added about 100,000 [€9,110] dirhams from my own pocket. And thanks to God, I like my new house and I'm comfortable in it. I'm at peace because my wife, my children and I are all healthy and I haven't lost any of them." Around 40 kilometres away, in the town of Azgour, it's a different story. Larbi Ait Jelloulat, also 72, is sitting in front of a pile of rubble that was once his house. "I want to know where my rights have gone," he said angrily. "Who took what's rightfully mine? For three years, I've been going from one department to another, from one complaint to another, from one petition to another, just looking for an answer. Why have I been excluded? Am I



not a Moroccan citizen?" Ait Jelloulat was formerly a council employee and saved for years in order to build the large home that was destroyed in the 2023 earthquake. As far as he can tell, bureaucratic issues mean he must prove he was a resident in the area. "My only dream was to spend the rest of my life in my own home, a rest after years of service," he explained. "Now they say I'm not a resident ... Where's the logic in that?" **Why such different experiences?** Reconstruction seems to be happening faster in Ighermene, the village where Ait Belaid lives. About 90% of the village is rebuilt and most residents' lives are back to normal, said Omar Saeed from the Ighermene Association for Development and Solidarity. Of the village's around 150 families, 114 received state support of some kind, although most also had

to contribute some of their own money to rebuild. Meanwhile, in Azgour, where Ait Jelloulat lives, there's been more to do. Azgour was the village most impacted by the earthquake in the area. There, about 76 families have had help with reconstruction, Ait Jelloulat said, while 56 others are still waiting for help. "What's more, the 76 families who rebuilt their homes in a different location are also having problems connecting to water and electricity," he added. **Rebuilding difficult in remote mountain villages** According to a March statement from the High Atlas Development Agency, or ADHA, which was established in October 2023 to bring help to affected areas, 54,425 homes have been built or rehabilitated and more than 3,000 homes are still under construction. The government has given out more than 7.2 billion dirhams (€656



million/\$770 million) to affected families. The sum includes funds to help rebuild as well as monthly emergency aid payments. In terms of the pace of construction, Marrakech-based architect Mohamed Belmejjad believes the state is actually doing fairly well. "I believe the progress so far, relative to the timeframe, to be positive," he told DW. Given the circumstances, it would be hard for things to have gone much faster, he suggested. Immediately after the earthquake, it was difficult to reach affected locations, especially remote mountain villages and towns. Then rubble had to be cleared before building could begin. After that, other factors complicated reconstruction, including the distance of some villages from paved roads, the difficulty of transporting building materials in and debris out, problems with connecting water and power, and the need to relocate whole villages and construction sites to avoid dangers

like landslides. There's also a need to respect local building traditions, ensuring that construction materials are solid and will last. "We also lack the necessary expertise here, whether that's in terms of architects, design offices, contractors or even the labor required for construction," Belmejjad pointed out. Given all that has happened reconstruction could actually be considered ahead of schedule, he suggested. **'No one has remembered us'** Despite that, the National Coordination for Al Haouz Earthquake Victims reports receiving complaints from more than 3,000 families who haven't had any state help. Montasser Itri, a member of the organisation, explains that some of these families were excluded because they had moved to other parts of the country to work and their national identity cards then show them as residents of places unaffected by the 2023 earthquake.

"The government is trying to make us, the victims of the Al Haouz earthquake, into mere statistics linked to the progress of construction and the removal of tents," Itri told DW, "rather than treating us as human beings and with dignity." That's why the coordinating committee is already demanding an independent and transparent investigation into how local authorities have handled the payouts. In the past they've organised demonstrations outside parliament buildings in the capital, Rabat, to demand compensation and rehousing solutions and to accuse local authorities of failing to honor commitments. Other impacted locals are hoping the upcoming general election, slated for September 23, might make a difference. "[Prime Minister Aziz] Akhannouch promised us a solution to the issue and God knows we are waiting," said Fawzia Aliban, whose home in Amizmiz was damaged in the earthquake. "We hope the problems will be resolved because I was denied benefits even though my house is on the verge of collapse." "Three years have passed, and no one has remembered us [...]" but recently some political figures turned up and promised to solve the problem," added Mohamed Belkaid, who is still living in a tent in the Amizmiz area with his four children.

— DW



LIFESTYLE

2026
BEETHOVEN
FESTIVAL
EVOKES
A SENSE
OF HOME

The motto of this year’s classical music festival in Bonn is “Home/At Home,” featuring musicians from diverse cultures presenting pieces from their homelands



Four trumpeters will be scattered throughout the concert hall, accompanied by organ music, promising a magnificent auditory experience in Bonn’s newly renovated Beethovenhalle on Friday evening. The piece “A Call to the Heavens” was composed by Stefan Behrisch specifically for the opening of this year’s Beethovenfest. Additionally, the London Symphony Orchestra, led by principal conductor Sir Antonio Pappano, will perform Ludwig van Beethoven’s “Die Weihe des Hauses” (“The Consecration of the House”) as well as Bruckner’s Symphony No. 9 at the opening concert.

For nine years, Bonn’s Beethovenhalle, a designated historic landmark, was unavailable for the festival. But now, as Philipp Seliger, spokesperson for the Beethoven Festival explained, “we have a large concert hall again with its excellent original acoustics.

“We can once again invite major renowned orchestras because we have the appropriate stage and infrastructure,” Seliger added. This also prompted Hungarian star pianist, Andras Schiff, to perform at the festival this year.

Musical home for everyone
The new hall isn’t only intended to make stars and major orchestras feel at home — the audience and local musicians ought to feel that way too.

Indeed, for local musicians, there is a specially designed Festival Salon where local communities and bands can create their own programs. And anyone can come by and participate in the “Meet your band” project, which is an accessible, free program for people who otherwise wouldn’t visit a classical concert hall.

The Beethovenfest also reaches out to people in neighbourhoods across the city, right where they live. For over a year, as a part of this effort, Juri de Marco and the “Community Choir” have been encouraging people to sing and improvise, regardless of whether they can read music.

“For me, home is more a feeling than it is a place. It’s where you can rely on a genuine social network, where people notice when you are absent,” said festival director Steven Walter, who himself has lived in various places around the world. “Everywhere I go, my sense of well-being depends on my social connections.”

Beethoven reinterpreted
Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn in 1850, and died in Vienna in 1827. Next year marks the 200th anniversary of his death, and to celebrate, pianist Kit Armstrong with conductor Jan Caeyers, along with his orchestra “Le Concert Olympique,” are launching “Beethoven 27,” a major Beethoven cycle. In nine concerts, they will present entirely new interpretations of Beethoven’s nine symphonies, as well as his sonatas and piano concertos.

The first three concerts will be presented at this year’s Beethovenfest. Caeyers has devoted himself to Beethoven, not only as a conductor but also as a musicologist. He is the author of the acclaimed biography “Beethoven: A Life,” but said he is far from finished discovering the composer.

“Every time I immerse myself in Beethoven, new and unexpected doors open. That’s what keeps me fascinated,” Caeyers told DW. Armstrong feels the same way. “There isn’t just one Beethoven,” he said. “There are countless images and perspectives of Beethoven, including many that emerged long after his death. Those perspectives should also inform the way we interpret his music today.”

Spotlight on Georgia
Artists at this year’s Beethovenfest will introduce music from their homelands. Among them is Palestinian-Syrian pianist Aeham Ahmad, who gained global renown for playing the piano amid the rubble of the Syrian civil war.

Violinist Lisa Batiashvili, who was born in Georgia, is this year’s artist in residence at the Beethovenfest. Performing with the Dresden Philharmonic, she will present works from her homeland as part of the program “City Lights” — a personal tribute to Georgia, which the festival is spotlighting this year.

As part of the festival’s long-running “Campus” youth exchange programme, young musicians from Georgia and Germany will collaborate, with Beethoven’s music performed alongside works by leading Georgian composers. The entire ensemble will also perform Heinrich Schütz’s five-part motet “Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich” (“Grant Us Gracious Peace”).

Musicians from Germany’s National Youth Orchestra and the Tbilisi Youth Orchestra held their joint rehearsal residency in June, developing their own artistic vision and program for Beethovenfest. The project also

explores how young artists see themselves in a country facing political turmoil, where the path toward Europe has repeatedly shifted course.

Seventeen-year-old composer and pianist Tsothe Zedginidze, regarded as one of Georgia’s most extraordinary young musical talents, was commissioned to write the Campus project’s new work.

Beyond classical music
Crossovers, musical fusion and new ideas for the future of music remain central to this year’s Beethovenfest. Two musical worlds will come together with Senegalese kora player Momi Maiga joining the string orchestra “Ensemble Resonanz” to improvise on Beethoven’s music.

American composer Brittany J. Green will experiment with artificial intelligence and visual effects in her work “gLitcheD dreams/invisible BEINGS.” Performed with the music collective “Alarm Will Sound,” the piece creates a sonic landscape inspired by the digital age.

“We’re looking for the Beethovens of our time,” said spokesperson Seliger, “including people who aren’t necessarily composers of classical music.”

-DW

SPORTS



Sepúlveda wins stage 3, Pellaud retains Tour of Salalah lead

The Argentine rider, riding for Li Ning Star, added the third stage victory to his success in the Dhofar Classic that preceded the Tour

Times News Service

SALALAH: Argentina's Eduardo Sepúlveda continued his impressive run in Dhofar by claiming vic-

tory in the third and penultimate stage of the Tour of Salalah 2026 on Tuesday, while Switzerland's Simon Pellaud retained the golden leader's jersey with one stage re-

maining. Sepúlveda, riding for Li Ning Star, added the Stage 3 victory to his success in the Dhofar Classic, the one-day race that preceded the Tour of Salalah.

His latest triumph further strengthened Li Ning Star's position in the battle for honours as the four-stage international race approaches its conclusion.

Colombia's Edison Alejandro Callejas of Roojai Insurance Winspace finished second, while Dutchman Adne van Engelen of Terengganu Cycling Team took third.

Li Ning Star also secured

the team classification for the stage.

The third stage, the toughest mountain test of the Tour, covered approximately 156 kilometres, taking the riders through the mountainous terrain of Dhofar before the finish at Jabal Samhan.

Pellaud stays in gold

Despite Sepúlveda's stage victory, Pellaud remains in control of the general classification.

The Li Ning Star rider took command of the Tour after winning Stage 2 at Wadi Darbat on Monday

as he produced a decisive acceleration on the final climb to beat Callejas and Huby.

Indonesia's Dimas Nur Fadhill Rizqi of Jakarta Pro Cycling Team continues to hold the white jersey for the leading under-23 rider.

Champion to be decided

The sixth edition of the Tour of Salalah concludes with the fourth and final stage, covering 105 kilometres from Ain Razat to the Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex on Wednesday.

With Pellaud carrying the gold

jersey into the final day, the Swiss rider will be looking to protect his overall advantage and complete a successful Tour for Li Ning Star.

Sepúlveda, meanwhile, has established himself as one of the outstanding performers of the event. After winning the Dhofar Classic and then Stage 3, the Argentine has provided Li Ning Star with two major victories in Dhofar.

The final stage will determine whether Pellaud can convert his overall lead into the Tour of Salalah title.

SET FOR 203RD CAP

Modrić named in Croatia squad for Nations League



ZAGREB: Luka Modrić was named by coach Slaven Bilić in the Croatia squad on Monday for the Nations League to continue his standout international career.

When Croatia play at Czech Republic in their opening Group A game of the Nations League on September 26, Modrić will earn his 203rd cap at age 41. In July he signed up for one more club season with AC Milan.

Only Cristiano Ronaldo has more international games (233) for Portugal and Lionel Messi who announced his retirement from international football with Argentina a week ago had 207.

"I did not have to persuade him," Bilić said. "He is passionate about Croatia and the national team, so this is a win-win situation."

Croatia also face World Cup champions Spain and England in the group for the 2026-27 Nations League group phase that runs from September to November.

Bilić suggested Modrić won't be used in all group matches.

"He will play at a pace that suits both him and us, similar to his rhythm at Milan," he said. "We have to respect that, and it will be the best for everyone."

Milan announced the news about Modrić's contract after he returned from his fifth World Cup, where he started all four games leading Croatia and passed 200 appearances for the national team. The 2018 Ballon d'Or winner was still on the field after 109 minutes when Croatia's tournament controversially ended with a disallowed goal in a 2-1 loss to Portugal in the round of 32. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE



Edu leaves Forest after turbulent spell

LONDON: Global head of football Edu has left Nottingham Forest after just over a year at the City Ground.

The former Arsenal midfielder has not attended a game since February and his exit, with his contract believed to have been terminated, has been expected.

His position came under the spotlight after a falling-out with Nuno Espirito Santo, who was sacked last September, the first of four managers at Forest last season.

Nuno hinted at internal tensions and said at the time his relationship with owner Evangelos Marinakis had changed.

Edu is not expected to be replaced, with Forest's chief football officer George Syrianos assuming his responsibilities.

Appointed in July 2025, Edu's remit included Greek side Olympiacos and Portuguese club Rio Ave, who are also owned by Marinakis.

He arrived after six years at Arsenal, where he became the club's first sporting director in 2022, having won two Premier League titles and two FA Cups as a player with the Gunners.

He brought Mikel Arteta to Emirates Stadium, who delivered the club's first Premier League title in 22 years last season.

Edu's departure comes after former Olympiacos vice-president Theodore Giannikos was appointed chief executive last week. He replaced Lina Souloukou, who stepped down from the role at the City Ground at the end of last season. - Agencies

EUROPEAN LEAGUES

Lazio make it three in a row to go joint top

MILAN: Lazio won for the third time in a row in the Italian Serie A while Real Sociedad beat struggling Elche 3-2 in a gripping game and Getafe and Celta Vigo drew 1-1 in La Liga on Monday.

Davide Fratesi scored for the third game in succession as Lazio came from a goal behind to beat Udinese 2-1. Fratesi scored the winners for Lazio in 1-0 wins over Genoa and Bologna and he slid in to convert a low cross in the 75th minute to cancel out Jesper Karlstrom's 49th-minute opener.

He was replaced by Albert Gudmundsson a few minutes later and two minutes from time the Icelandic bulletted home a header on his Lazio debut.

The win took Lazio joint top with nine points from three games, alongside Roma and Inter Milan. Udinese remained in 10th.

Daniel Maldini, who was on loan from Atalanta, put Cagliari a goal up when he glanced home a header from a first half corner and although the home side was on top for most of the match it could not add to the score. Paul Mendy saw a low shot hit the base of the post early in the second half and Maldini struck the woodwork with a free kick soon after. The win lifted Cagliari into the top half of the table, while Lecce fell to 14th.

Sociedad survive

Real Sociedad won away from home in La Liga for the first time



since February thanks to a 90th minute goal from Luka Sučić.

Job Ochieng put Sociedad 1-0 up after 11 minutes and Yangel Herrera added a second with the help of a goalkeeping flap 20 minutes later.

However, momentum shifted after Sociedad's Jon Martin was shown a red card for a bad tackle in the 65th. On-loan striker Thomas Lemar got a goal back for Elche four minutes later and then Fer Nino bundled home an equaliser nine minutes later.

Elche missed a string of opportunities to grab its first win of the season and it paid the price when Sučić scored on the break in the dying seconds.

Sociedad were ninth, with seven points from five games, while Elche were joint bottom with one

point. Celta Vigo were still looking for their first win of the season after drawing at Getafe 1-1.

Celta failed to clear a corner kick from the right and Uruguayan striker Martin Satriano pounced on the loose ball to score the opener from point-blank range.

Celta's equaliser after 57 minutes also came from a corner, with Carl Starfelt heading home the counter.

Getafe's Zaid Romero was sent off after receiving a second yellow card midway through the second period and although Celta pushed forward for the winner they were not to be for a team with just two goals in five league matches this term. Getafe are in 15th place, and Celta are a place and a point behind. - Agencies

REAL MADRID STAR



This could be year I win Ballon d'Or: Mbappe

MADRID: Kylian Mbappé believes this could be the year he wins the Ballon d'Or for the first time.

He's optimistic after winning his second consecutive World Cup Golden Boot with 10 goals, the most in 56 years.

He also overtook Lionel Messi for the most all-time World Cup goals with 22. There were also 42 goals in 44 matches for Real Madrid, although the club finished last season without a major trophy.

"There are many people who speak about me and the Ballon d'Or. Of course I've made history in the most important competition. Maybe it's a good year for this, but people can vote according to what they think," Mbappé said on Monday.

The award will be presented on October 26 in London. The men's Ballon d'Or last year was won by Ousmane Dembélé after Paris

Saint-Germain won their first Champions League title.

"I think when you play for Real Madrid, the best club in the world, people automatically associate you with this award," Mbappé added. "I always think I'm the best, but everyone is entitled to their own opinion."

Other candidates

Other strong candidates include Harry Kane — 61 goals in 51 games for Bayern Munich — and Lamine Yamal, who won the World Cup with Spain and La Liga with Barcelona.

"I don't like making comparisons because I do a lot of things that others don't," Mbappé said. "If we get into that it becomes an endless debate, you know?"

His best finish in the voting was third in 2023. He spoke ahead of Real Madrid's Champions League opener against Inter Milan on Tuesday night. - Agencies



Zheng stuns Swiatek, Gauff storms into quarter-finals

The reigning Olympic champion matched her best ever performance at the US Open by reaching the quarters where she will meet Elena Rybakina

NEW YORK: Zheng Qinwen won a set from 5-0 down for the second match in succession as she extended her fantastic US Open run by beating former champion Iga Swiatek to reach the quarter-finals on Monday.

Zheng, the reigning Olympic champion and former world No.4, dropped outside the world's top 100 earlier this year while struggling to regain her best form following elbow surgery in July 2025.

The 23-year-old from China had trailed Madison Keys 5-0 in the deciding set of their third-round match on Saturday before winning seven successive games to secure her spot in round four.

And Zheng was 5-0 down in the opening set against Poland's eighth seed Swiatek, but won 13 of the next 16 games on Arthur Ashe Stadium to set up a quarter-final against second seed Elena Rybakina, who sped past former champion Naomi Osaka.

The second set was on serve until the seventh game, when Zheng crushed a powerful backhand return winner to secure a crucial break, and she broke again two games later to complete a 7-5, 6-3 victory.

This latest win - her seventh in a row in New York having come



through three rounds of qualifying - will put her back to the brink of the top 50.

"The more matches I play, the more rhythm I have on court," said Zheng.

"People have asked me if I'm tired and when I arrived I was not tired at all. I felt really pumped for my match, trying to reach better levels here and enjoy this fantastic stadium."

Elsewhere, French Open winner Mirra Andreeva recovered from losing the first set to Austria's Anastasia Potapova to reach the last eight in New York for the first time in her career.

Reflecting on losing the first set

to Zheng, Swiatek said she simply missed too many shots after going 5-0 up.

"My focus was the same as always," said the six-time major winner. "I wanted to play the same as always. [I] just started to miss too much, wanted to adjust it, but nothing kind of worked at that point."

"I knew I was going to have another chance and I wanted to use it, but I missed them all."

She continued: "I wouldn't say it had anything to do with mentality. It was more that I started making mistakes from easy balls and Qinwen stopped doing mistakes. She played the balls better."



Andreeva through

Andreeva, 19, was severely tested by Potapova until the 24th seed injured her knee in what proved to be the final game of their match on Louis Armstrong Stadium.

Potapova seemed to twist or hyperextend her knee while attempting to hit a ball on the run from the baseline and Andreeva was across quickly to check on her grounded opponent.

Potapova returned to the court after receiving treatment but lost the remaining points in her service game, confirming her exit from the tournament.

Fifth seed Andreeva, who won 5-7 6-4 6-3, said: "Anastasia is my

good friend and seeing what a battle we had and seeing her fall like that in the last game, it's not easy.

"I told her that she's been playing amazing and having one of her best seasons. I'm sure she'll come back even stronger - she's a warrior and an even better fighter than me."

Gauff's statement win

It was not so long ago that Coco Gauff was the teenage sensation looking to cause an upset at the US Open.

Now, at the grand old age of 22, she is the Grand Slam champion and leading WTA Tour star who drew on her experience to deal with talented 18-year-old Iva Jovic

at Flushing Meadows.

Fourth seed Gauff found her finest level of the fortnight to beat fellow American Jovic in a 6-1, 6-4 win and secure her place in the quarter-finals.

Gauff's comfortable progress ensured the top six seeds have reached the US Open women's last eight for the first time since 1998, further illustrating the strength in depth at the top of the WTA Tour.

"Iva is an incredible player and an incredible talent, she plays beyond her years," said Gauff, who continues her quest for a third major title against French Open champion Mirra Andreeva on Wednesday.

"I'm looking forward to many more battles out here, I'm sure we will be playing a lot more matches in the future."

Rybakina downs Osaka

Earlier on Monday, second seed Elena Rybakina swept aside two-time champion Naomi Osaka to also reach the quarter-finals - and close in on becoming world No.1.

Gauff and Rybakina are among five Grand Slam winners in a strong quarter-final line-up.

Rybakina overpowered 13th seed Osaka to win 6-1, 6-4 on Louis Armstrong Stadium.

Kazakhstan's Rybakina will become the world's leading player for the first time if she reaches the semi-finals in New York, even if top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka goes on to defend her title.

"Of course I want it, I don't know anyone who won't want this," Rybakina said of the number-one ranking.

"I tried to approach it the same way and do everything I can, and fight to the end of my next match."

"If I serve as well as I did today, I think I can do well. Let's hope it goes my way." Rybakina sealed the match inside 66 minutes with her seventh ace of a match where she hit a total of 29 winners to Osaka's nine. - Agencies

THREE-FORMAT HOME SEASON

Afghanistan to host Bangladesh and Zimbabwe in the UAE

DUBAI: Afghanistan are set to host Bangladesh and Zimbabwe in October-November in a packed home season that will include matches in all three formats.

All the matches will be played in the UAE, though the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) has not yet announced the venues.

The season will kick off on October 9 - six days after the final of the Asian Games T20I tournament in Japan, should Afghanistan make it that far - with a one-off Test match against Bangladesh.

An ODI tri-series will follow from October 17 to 23, with Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe facing each other once before the top two teams meet in the final.

Afghanistan will then take on Zimbabwe in a three-match T20I series from October 27 to November 1. The two teams will then face off in two Test matches, the first from November 5 to 9 and the second from November 13 to 17.

Afghanistan have already played a Test match this year, against India in New Chandigarh in June. The three matches against Bangladesh and Zimbabwe will take Afghanistan's total for the year to four Tests - the most they will have played in a calendar year so far.



Afghanistan have played two Tests against Bangladesh so far, winning one and losing the other. They have played five against Zimbabwe, winning two, losing two, and drawing one. "We are pleased to confirm this important period of international cricket for the Afghanistan National Team," ACB CEO Naseeb Khan said.

Afghanistan vs Bangladesh and Zimbabwe: One-off Test vs Bangladesh October 9-13.

ODI tri-series: Oct 17: Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe, Oct 19: Afghanistan vs Zimbabwe, Oct 21: Afghanistan vs Bangladesh, Oct 23: Final.

Afghanistan vs Zimbabwe T20I series: Oct 27: 1st T20I, Oct 29: 2nd T20I, November 1: 3rd T20I.

Afghanistan vs Zimbabwe Test series: Nov 5-9: First Test, Nov 13-17: 2nd Test. - Agencies

US OPEN MEN'S SINGLES

Lucky loser Gea denied history

NEW YORK: France's Arthur Gea was one point away from being the first lucky loser to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final - but three hours later he was out of the US Open on Monday.

Gea, 21, was unable to convert a match point in a third-set tie-break against Dutch opponent Botić van de Zandschulp, then could not serve out victory in the fourth set of a gruelling fourth-round contest.

Van de Zandschulp took full advantage to escape from the jaws of defeat, going on to secure a 3-6, 6-7 (0-7), 7-6 (9-7), 7-6 (7-3), 6-4 win after five hours and 13 minutes - the fourth longest match on record at Flushing Meadows.

World No. 87 Gea was not ranked high enough for the main draw when the US Open entry list was finalised, meaning he had to go through qualifying instead.

Seeded first, he lost to American Nishesh Basavareddy in the third and final round but earned a reprieve when 2022 finalist Casper Ruud withdrew injured on the eve of the tournament.

Gea made the most of the lifeline by beating Argentina's Juan Manuel Cerundolo, Zachary Svajda of the United States and another American Michael Zheng



to reach the last 16. But he could not find a way past 70th-ranked Van de Zandschulp, who said he had "no clue" how he completed a "crazy comeback".

After becoming the 13th lucky loser to be eliminated in the fourth round of a Slam, Gea will receive \$480,000 in prize money - a considerable increase on the \$66,000 he thought he was taking home from qualifying.

Van de Zandschulp's reward for reaching the second US Open quarter-final of his career is a meeting with German top seed Alexander Zverev.

Zverev, 29, had a rare finish be-



fore midnight in New York when he beat Italian 21st seed Luciano Darderi 6-2 6-2 7-6 (7-3) to reach the last eight. Zverev's previous three matches finished at 1:55am, 2:15am and 1:09am.

"I don't know what to do with myself because it's before midnight - I might go back to the practice courts or go to a bar," Zverev joked.

On whether he wants to play Van de Zandschulp in Wednesday's night session, the French Open champion added: "I will request the night match for sure."

Earlier on Monday, Belgium's Alexander Blockx said he was

"really close" to retiring injured against Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo before playing on to reach his first major quarter-final.

Blockx, seeded 28th, fought through rib pain to win 6-3 4-6 7-5 7-5, becoming the first Belgian man to make the last eight in New York.

Presuming he is fit enough, Blockx will play Russian world number 50 Karen Khachanov in the quarter-finals on Wednesday.

Khachanov fought back to win 7-5 4-6 6-7 (6-8) 6-1 6-4 against 14th seed Learner Tien, ending the American's attempt to put four home men in the quarters for the first time since 1995. - Agencies

BBL

Cricket Australia green lights Big Bash League privatisation

SYDNEY: Cricket Australia has opened the Big Bash to private investment, although individual state associations will retain the power to decide whether and when to sell stakes in their franchises.

The governing body had originally been keen on a league-wide sale of franchises for the Big Bash League (BBL) and the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) but those proposals were opposed by New South Wales and Queensland.

Instead, a "self-determination model" will be adopted by Cricket Australia for the process, which will allow individual states to have the final say.

The decision to sell stakes in Big Bash franchises follows the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) decision to sell stakes in The Hundred's eight teams last year, which generated more than £500m. The eight franchises were valued collectively at more than £975m.

Cricket Australia said the decision was a "landmark step" for the country's T20 tournament, with bids now being invited to purchase 100% of the licence for the Melbourne Renegades.

The aim is for the Renegades to be playing in the 2027-28 Big Bash under new ownership.



"Pending the result of that process, Cricket Australia will consider taking other clubs to market under a self-determination model that gives each state member the ability to assess the optimal pathway for its own club and community," the governing body said in a statement.

"The decision to proceed with this self-determination model was made in the best interests of all aspects of Australian cricket."

The Renegades will be operated by Cricket Australia in a caretaker capacity during the coming season, with their sale not affecting the 2026-27 BBL or WBBL.

Hobart Hurricanes, Melbourne Stars and Perth Scorchers are reportedly keen to bring in private investment but the two Sydney-based sides - Sixers and Thunder - along with Brisbane Heat and Adelaide Strikers are reluctant to commit. The self-determination model means those states can choose to explore private investment in future. Cricket Australia plans to retain control over international scheduling, player availability, salary caps and media rights.

It will also hold the power to approve or veto potential investors and set a reserve price for the sale of the Renegades. - Agencies



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