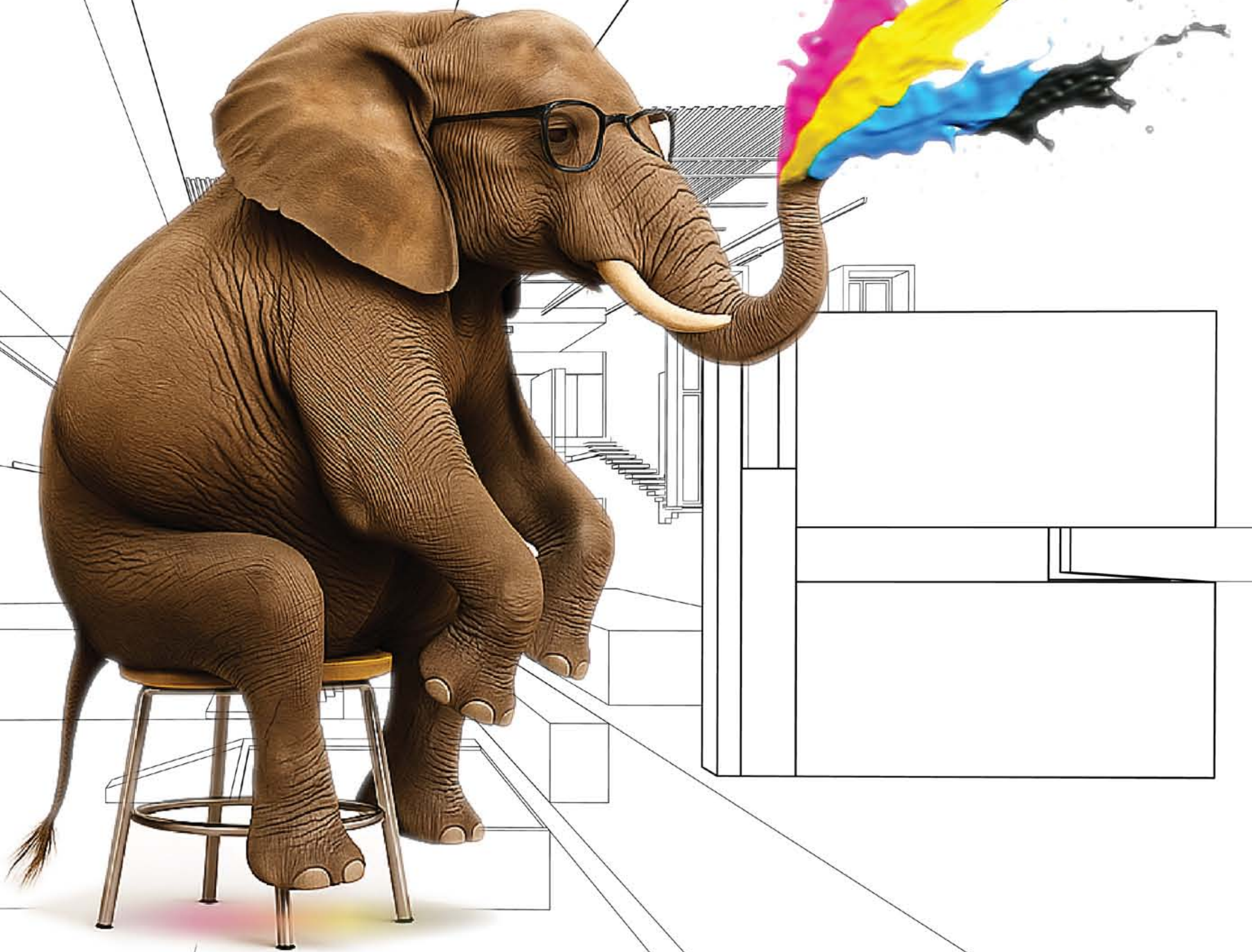


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PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:00pm
Asr.....	3:04pm
Maghrib.....	5:25pm
Isha.....	6:39pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:12am

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NEPAL AND CHINA EMBASSIES

‘Diplomatic Hiking’ event held

Times News Service

MUSCAT: On the occasion of Oman’s National Day, the Embassies of Nepal and the People’s Republic of China in Muscat successfully co-organised a ‘Diplomatic Hiking’ event. The hike took place on Friday, 28 November 2025, along the scenic Muttrah Riyam trail, commencing at 15:30 hours. The hike concluded at Riyam Park at 18:00 hours. Dornath Aryal, Ambassador of Nepal, and Lyu Jian, Ambassador of China, led the hiking group which included spouses of the Ambassadors, embassy officials, media personalities, and Omani friends.

This collaboration symbolised



the strong bilateral friendship between the nations and their deep respect for the Sultanate of Oman.

Beyond fostering diplomatic ties, the event featured a core environmental initiative.

Participants actively collected plastic bottles and waste found

along the trail, reflecting a shared commitment to environmental conversation.

The embassies noted that this initiative served as a meaningful way to celebrate Oman’s National Day, promoting mutual goodwill and tourism while uniting Nepal, China, and the Sultanate through a shared appreciation for nature.

Both the ambassadors expressed their gratitude to the participants for their active participation and assured of conducting similar events in the future. They thanked the Foreign Ministry of the Sultanate of Oman for coordinating with the local authorities to ensure availability of an ambulance throughout the hike.



Tender Notice

Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) hereby announces the following Tenders:					
Tender No.	Description of Project	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Distribution of Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
T/2741171/2025	Consultancy Services for Supervision for Water Distribution Networks in Nizwa and Bahla Wilayats	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	11/12/2025	19/1/2026
T/2742175/2025	Consultancy Services for Design and Supervision of Water and Wastewater Network Systems and associated STPs Systems in Al Juwailf and Al Khatwah – Wilayat of Mahadah	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	11/12/2025	19/1/2026
T/2741169/2025	CALL-OFF CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ULTRASONIC WATER METER DN15, DN20 DN 32 & DN40 (INCLUDING CONNECTION FITTINGS, NRV & WASHER) FOR THREE YEARS	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority and International companies specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 250/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	11/12/2025	05/01/2026
T/2742169/2025	Design, Supply, Installation, and commissioning of Sludge Dewatering Control Panel at Ansab STP	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 100/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	11/12/2025	05/01/2026
T/2742174/2025	Design and Construction of RCC for Tanker Unloading area and Roud at Ibri STP	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	11/12/2025	05/01/2026
T/2742179/2025	Construction of desalination plant in Al Ghubrah south in Al Jazer Wilayat at Wusta governorate as BOO contract with design capacity (200 m3/day).	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 250/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	11/12/2025	12/01/2026
Refloat /T/2724156-2 2025	Design, Supply & Installation of Grab Screen System at Central Pumping Station CPS	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	11/12/2025	05/01/2026

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

Shura Council to host ministers of finance, economy

Minister of Finance will discuss draft state budget for 2026 while the Minister of Economy will review the Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan (2026–2030)

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Shura Council will host on Monday, Sultan Salem Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, to discuss the draft state budget for the year 2026, and Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, to review the Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan (2026–2030).

The session will be held in camera, in accordance with Article (52) of the Council of Oman Law. Said Ahmed Mohammed Al Nadabi, Secretary-General of the Shura Council, who noted that the Council will convene its Third and Fourth regular sessions for the third annual sitting (2025–2026) of the Tenth Term on Monday and Tuesday, December 1 and 2.

He added that during the third



session, the Minister of Finance will present the key foundations and considerations on which the 2026 state budget has been built.

The session will also review estimates of public revenues and expenditures, public debt management, the assumed oil price in the budget, the expected deficit and financing plan, inflation rates, as well as development and investment spending for 2026. Financial, economic, and monetary indicators for 2025 will also be presented, along with an overview of potential economic and fiscal risks anticipated in 2026.

He explained that the Economic and Financial Committee of the Council has thoroughly examined the draft budget for the 2026 fiscal year through a series of meetings and consultations held earlier, during which specialists from various related sectors were hosted.

The committee has prepared a comprehensive report covering financial and economic indicators, data, and projections, along

with recommendations that support national priorities and align with the objectives of the Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan and Oman Vision 2040.

The session will also include the approval of the committee’s report on the 2026 draft state budget. The Council will discuss with the Minister of Economy the Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan (2026–2030), during which he will review its key features, sectoral priorities, and major development projects.

The Secretary-General noted that the Council, through all its standing committees, has examined the plan and discussed its various aspects in detail.

He also indicated that the session will include briefings on several draft laws referred by the government, including the draft Unified Law for International Land Transport among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and proposed amendments to certain provisions of the Personal Data Protection Law.

MINISTRY OF HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Roadshows promoting Oman’s tourism to be launched in China

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism will launch a series of mobile promotional workshops across the People’s Republic of China starting this Monday. The roadshows will take place in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, aiming to strengthen Oman’s presence in Asian tourism markets and expand cooperation with key partners in the tourism sector. The official delegation will be led by Azzan bin Qassim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism, with the participation of representatives from 22 Omani tourism institutions.

The programme includes the inauguration of a new direct flight route by Eastern Airlines at Beijing Daxing International Airport, in collaboration with Oman Airports. The new route will connect the Chinese capital, Beijing, with Muscat, marking a significant step in enhancing air connectivity, facilitating travel, and boosting tourist flows between the two friendly nations.

The workshops in Chinese cities will serve as specialised promotional platforms to foster collaboration between Omani tourism companies and hotel establishments. They will showcase Oman’s most attractive tourism experiences for Chinese travellers, highlighting the Sultanate’s unique heritage, diverse natural landscapes, and sustainable tourism offerings.



Several meetings will also be held with major Chinese travel companies to present promising investment opportunities in Oman’s tourism sector, with a focus on developing innovative products targeting new traveler segments. These efforts aim to strengthen Oman’s presence in the Chinese market and open doors for future investments.

Through these initiatives, the Ministry seeks to position Oman as a destination that blends authentic heritage with breathtaking nature, attracting new segments of visitors seeking distinctive travel experiences.

The roadshows also aim to solidify international partnerships with Chinese travel and tourism companies, contributing to the growth and sustainability of Oman’s tourism sector.

Haitham bin Mohammed Al Ghassani, Director General of Tourism Promotion at the Ministry, emphasised that the Chinese market is one of the world’s most prominent tourism markets. Statistics show it is a high-spending market that favors destinations

offering a mix of nature, culture, and unique experiences.

He noted that Oman’s rich geographical and cultural diversity makes it an ideal destination for Chinese tourists eager to explore authentic and historically rich environments.

In a statement to Oman News Agency, Al Ghassani added that enhancing Oman’s presence in the Chinese market directly contributes to raising awareness of the Sultanate as a distinctive tourism destination.

It also paves the way for partnerships with Chinese travel agencies and digital booking platforms, especially as interest in sustainable travel and cultural experiences continues to grow.

He emphasised that Oman has a significant opportunity to strengthen its presence and attract more visitors from this vital market. He also noted that earlier this year, the Ministry appointed Dragon Trail as Oman’s official representative in the Chinese market.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَلَأُ الْأَعْيُنَ أَلْبَسْنِي عِلْمًا وَارْزُقْنِي كَلَامًا
«صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ»

شكر على تعاز

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره
يتقدم

أحمد بن سهيل بن سالم المخيني بهوان
وإخوانه و أولادهم

بخالص الشكر وعظيم الامتنان إلى

المقام السامي لحضرة

صاحب الجلالة السلطان هيثم بن طارق المعظم

حفظه الله ورعا

وإلى أصحاب السمو والمعالي أفراد الأسرة المالكة الكريمة
وأصحاب المعالي الوزراء والمستشارين والمكرمين أعضاء
مجلس الدولة وأصحاب السعادة أعضاء مجلس الشورى
والعسكريين والولاة والشيوخ وأعيان القبائل والإخوة المواطنين
وكافة من واساهم في مصابهم الجلل من المقيمين من داخل
السلطنة وخارجها سواء بالحضور أو الاتصال أو الإبراق أو النشر بالصحف
او وسائل الاتصال الاجتماعي

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سائلين الله العلي القدير ألا يريكم مكروها في عزيز لديكم
وأن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته ويسكنه فسيح جناته مع الصديقين
والشهداء وحسن أولئك رفيقا.

اللهم إنا نرجو أن يجمعنا



ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE



Forum to discuss ESG standards

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Business and Partnership Forum with the private sector at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion will organise on Wednesday the fourth session of the Trade Dialogues for this year on environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards, business priorities, finance and enhancing the competitiveness of companies.

A select group of experts and business leaders from the public and private sectors are expected to take part in the event.

Haritha bint Salem Al Busaidi, Director of the Oman Business Forum and Partnership with the Private Sector Office at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, explained that the dialogue session will discuss the impact of applying ESG standards of Omani companies, starting with exporters, passing through manufacturers and reaching small companies that have

begun the first steps in preparing governance reports.

She emphasised that ESG standards represent a shift from the level of aspirations to the stage of actual accountability, and companies that are able to provide reliable data about their use of resources, their interaction with their employees, and their governance system are more able to access financing more easily and at a lower cost.

The dialogue session is being organised at a time when ESG standards have become a fundamental criterion for business credibility, after previously being classified as an additional option for responsible corporate behavior. Many regulatory bodies in Oman have begun to strengthen compliance requirements; the Muscat Stock Exchange requires all listed companies to submit detailed governance reports, and the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) has directed banking institutions to include environmental and social risks in loan evaluation and pricing processes.

With continued reforms and openness to investments, Oman stands out as one of the most important regional hub for establishing long-term projects

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has consolidated its position as a regional centre that attracts investment, driven by structural and legal reforms, comprehensive incentives and facilities, and economic sustainability, which have greatly contributed to simplifying foreign capital investments, making it a highly regarded destination for long-term foreign investment.

Since the Foreign Capital Investment Law and the Public-Private Partnership Law came into effect in 2020, the Sultanate of Oman has affirmed its openness to business and investment, while the strategic direction of economic diversification in accordance with the objectives of the “Oman 2040” vision is driving the attraction of more foreign direct investments in an environment that provides legal protection within a business-friendly investment framework.

The launch of the Invest Easy platform of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion in 2016, and its merger during 2023 into the Oman Business platform to build a unified window for all electronic government services, contributed to simplifying business establishment procedures, improving access to incentives such as tax and customs exemptions, and greatly reducing the time required to complete transactions.

While renewable energy and green hydrogen are among the most attractive sectors for future investments, the Sultanate of



Oman aims to generate about 30 percent of its electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030.

While the right of usufruct for 99 years is an important element for attracting foreign investors, as it gives them the right to use, invest in and inherit the property for a long period, it is also applied in integrated tourist complexes.

The Sultanate of Oman has proven itself to be an attractive and growing investment destination that combines a strategic geographical location, a clear legal framework and an ambitious economic vision. With continued reforms and openness to investments, it stands out as one of the most important regional destinations for establishing long-term projects that enjoy high returns and sustainable economic stability.

A number of foreign investors confirmed that the Foreign Investment Law, the availability of 100 percent foreign ownership, digital transformation, the Sultanate of Oman's move towards utilising renewable energy, and the right of usufruct for 99 years are all incentives that have contributed to enhancing the investment climate.

In expressing the satisfaction of foreign investors with the investment environment in the Sultanate of Oman, Davis Kalukaran, Managing Partner of Crowe Oman, Board Member of the American Chamber of Commerce, Vice Chairman of the Foreign Investment Committee of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Founding Director of the Indian Business Council for the Middle East, praised the Omani laws related to encouraging investment in the Sultanate of Oman for their transparency and clarity to foreign investors.

Dr. Davis said that the Foreign Capital Investment Act helps investors understand the government's direction and way of thinking, and provides them with

a sense of confidence in knowing how their interests are protected and the potential challenges when investing in the Omani market.

He pointed out that imposing corporate tax has contributed to attracting investments, due to its direct positive impact on the standard of living of citizens and residents, and on the development of infrastructure as well.

He explained that the government established a specialised renewable energy entity called Hydrogen Oman (Hydrom) and allocated approximately 50,000 square kilometres of land for green energy projects, which constitutes a major competitive advantage for the Sultanate of Oman in this field.

Syed Fayyaz Ali Shah, Chairman of the Syed Fayyaz Group, affirmed that the new laws have played an influential role in attracting major investors to the Sultanate of Oman, describing them as an embodiment of Oman's renewed renaissance.

He explained that these laws promote a strong legal framework, open new horizons for cooperation between the public and private sectors, and demonstrate a deep understanding of the business environment, thus preparing the Sultanate of Oman for decades to come in terms of economic growth.

He stressed that the digital transformation has clearly impacted the growth of the private sector and increased investor confidence, especially in the real estate sector.

Ahmad Subhani, CEO of Falcon Group, confirmed that allowing 100 percent foreign ownership in special economic zones was a pivotal factor in boosting investor confidence.

He added that allowing full foreign ownership along with clarity in partnerships confirms that the Sultanate of Oman is serious about openness and economic growth.

He said that digital transformation has radically changed the business experience in the Sultanate of Oman, noting that platforms such as Invest Oman and Oman Business Platform have made procedures faster, more transparent and more investor-friendly.

He pointed out that this transformation reflects the government's vision of building a technology-based economy, making the establishment and expansion of businesses much easier than in previous years, explaining that there are promising opportunities in the tourism, logistics, fisheries, mining, health, technology and creative industries sectors, in addition to renewable energy.

As explained by Sivakumar S, Managing Director at Novell Muscat International, these laws were introduced to address the most important concerns of foreign investors regarding ownership. The Foreign Capital Investment Act allows 100 percent ownership, and the Partnership Act provides a clear and transparent framework for large infrastructure projects.

He added that the partnership with the government gives investors' confidence and opens up great opportunities in the manufacturing, water, electricity, transportation and healthcare sectors.

He stressed that granting the right of usufruct for 99 years is a strategic step that has boosted investor confidence in large projects, explaining that “long-term usufruct provides the necessary certainty for industrial projects that require planning that extends for decades, and with allowing full foreign ownership, the government is demonstrating a serious commitment to establishing strategic partnerships with foreign capital.”

Anthony Ghazi Al-Helou, CEO of Al-Sarouj Construction, said that business procedures in the Sultanate of Oman used to take weeks are now completed in one day, noting that this digital transformation has enabled investors to focus on their business instead of being constrained by paper transactions.

He stressed that the Sultanate of Oman is one of the world's promising markets for renewable energy thanks to its great potential in solar and wind energy, in addition to its ideal location for the production of green hydrogen and green ammonia.

— With inputs from ONA

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Handling complaints

< FROM A1 Regarding non-renewal or termination of Omani employees' contracts, Al Hajri said: “Each complaint is reviewed to ensure compliance with labour law. If a violation is established, corrective measures are taken, or the matter is referred to the Labour Dispute Settlement Committee.”

“Since the beginning of the year, we have conducted 417 health and safety inspections,” he said. “Violations are met with immediate warnings or penalties until corrective actions are taken. Ensuring safe workplaces is a fundamental responsibility of employers.”

The directorate offers a wide range of training programmes in administrative areas, including accounting, management, law, and information technology, as well as technical and vocational skills through eight Ministry-affiliated colleges.

“Strategic partnerships with industrial companies in Sohar Industrial Area, Sohar Port, and the Oman Chamber of Commerce provide hands-on experience, aligning training with real job opportunities,” Al Hajri explained. >A7

Digital services have significantly accelerated public service delivery.

“Citizens and employers can now complete transactions online, from registering job applications to renewing work permits in minutes,” he said. The directorate was recently awarded the Best Service Delivery Outlet for its efficient digital platforms. Upcoming initiatives include a Unified Smart Application, self-service systems, and electronic integration with other government entities.

“Compliance is not just about enforcement,” Al Hajri concluded. “It is about raising awareness, providing guidance, and creating real opportunities for Omanis to integrate successfully into the workforce, while ensuring safe, fair, and sustainable workplaces.”



REF: OFM/TD-05/2025

Providing Forklift Operator

Oman Flour Mills invites qualified and licensed service providers to provide certified forklift operators to perform operational duties as instructed by the Customer's supervisors. The contract shall be for a period of two (2) years.

Tender Documents:

Interested bidders are requested to send an email to tender3@omanflourmills.com to obtain the tender documents. Tender documents will be shared upon receipt of the tender fee deposit slip via email.

Tender Fee Details:

Tender fee shall be deposited directly to the following bank account:
•Account Name: Oman Flour Mills Company SAOG
•Bank: Sohar International
•Account Number: 001020032407
•Swift Code: BSHROMRUXXX

Tender Ref no.	OFM/TD-05/2025
Tender subject	Providing forklift operators
Tender Fee	RO. 100/- (non-refundable)
Start date for tender collection	30/11/2025
Last date for tender collection	11/12/2025
Last date for receiving the technical queries	14/12/2025
Closing date of the tender	16/12/2025
Mode of payment of tender fee	By Bank Transfer
Email address for receiving SOW & clarification	tender3@omanflourmills.com
Mode of submission	All bidders are required to submit their proposals online through email: bid-ofm@omanflourmills.com

•Vendor selection will be based on “best and final offer”. OFM is not bound to select the lowest bidder.

•Notwithstanding the specific terms in the Tender Documents, Tender fee is not refundable

•Bids submittal shall consist of 2 separate PDF files (Technical) & (Commercial), with bidder name on each and tender reference number OFM/TD-05/2025.



REF: OFM/TD-06/2025

Supply of a Pnumatic Ship Unloader

Oman Flour Mills SAOG (OFM) is seeking specialized suppliers for the supply and delivery of a new grain ship unloader machine.

Tender Documents:

Interested bidders are requested to send an email to tender3@omanflourmills.com to obtain the tender documents. Tender documents will be shared upon receipt of the tender fee deposit slip via email.

Tender Fee Details:

Tender fee shall be deposited directly to the following bank account:
•Account Name: Oman Flour Mills Company SAOG
•Bank: Sohar International
•Account Number: 001020032407
•Swift Code: BSHROMRUXXX

Tender Ref no.	OFM/TD-06/2025
Tender subject	Buying Ship Unloader Machine
Tender Fee	RO. 500/- (non-refundable)
Start date for tender collection	30/11/2025
Last date for tender collection	14/12/2025
Last date for receiving the technical queries	21/12/2025
Closing date of the tender	28/12/2025
Mode of payment of tender fee	By Bank Transfer
Email address for receiving SOW & clarification	tender3@omanflourmills.com
Mode of submission	All bidders are required to submit their proposals online through email: bid-ofm@omanflourmills.com

•Vendor selection will be based on “best and final offer”. OFM is not bound to select the lowest bidder.

•Notwithstanding the specific terms in the Tender Documents, Tender fee is not refundable

•Bids submittal shall consist of 2 separate PDF files (Technical) & (Commercial), with bidder name on each and tender reference number OFM/TD-06/2025.



COMMENTARY

Oman’s Consumer Protection Law: Strict penalties for misleading advertising



DR. MOHAMMED IBRAHIM AL ZADJALI, Founding partner of Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm



In Oman, misleading advertising is not viewed as a routine commercial issue it is a punishable offence. The Consumer Protection Law, issued under Royal Decree 66/2014, provides strict rules to ensure that consumers are not deceived by inaccurate, exaggerated, or incomplete information in any form of promotion or advertisement. The law recognises that misleading advertising undermines consumer trust, distorts market fairness, and exposes the public to potential harm.

Speaking to the Times of Oman, Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Zadjali, Founding Partner of Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm, stated that “the law prohibits any form of misleading, or false representation of goods and services. Advertisers and suppliers must provide accurate,

complete, and truthful information, especially regarding price, components, origin, expiry dates, and safety instructions. Any deviation whether intentional or negligent is considered a legal violation.”

He added that “misleading advertising includes any act that directly or indirectly deceives the consumer, whether through packaging, digital marketing, promotional offers, or verbal claims. The law insists on transparency and clarity to protect consumers from financial loss, unsafe products, or decisions taken under false impressions. This obligation is essential in a market where products and services continue to diversify.”

“Violations carry strict penalties. Misleading advertising falls within offences punishable by imprisonment of not less than three months and up to three years, or fines ranging from OMR2,000 to OMR50,000. In cases where the violation results in death, the minimum imprisonment

term increases to five years,” he explained.

He emphasised that “the Consumer Protection Authority is empowered to seize goods, inspect premises, order the cessation of advertisements, and initiate legal action. The authority’s enforcement powers ensure that deceptive promotional practices are quickly addressed and prevented from reaching consumers.”

With the increasing flow of goods into the local market, Oman’s strict enforcement policy acts both as a deterrent and a safeguard. By criminalising misleading advertising, the law safeguards consumer rights, strengthens market integrity, and promotes fair competition across the Sultanate, he concluded.

(Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm (info@mohammedibrahim.net), (+968 244 87 600) was established 18 years ago and is serving clients through its offices in Muscat and Sohar, as well as operating on a request basis in other areas. It offers legal representation across a wide range of practice areas that include Labour Law, Corporate, Commercial, Contracts, Banking and Finance, International Trade, Foreign Investment, Insurance, Maritime Law, Construction and Engineering Contracts, International Arbitration, Intellectual Property and more).

TOURISM SECTOR



Tourism soars in Al Buraimi during National Day holiday

Times News Service

AL BURAIMI: Al Buraimi Governorate witnessed increased commercial and tourist activity during the National Day holiday, with large numbers of visitors arriving from within and outside the Sultanate of Oman, which contributed to revitalising the economic and tourism sectors in the governorate.

Hamid bin Rashid Al-Zaidi, Director of the Heritage and Tourism Department in Al-Buraimi Governorate, explained that hotel establishments recorded occupancy rates of 100 percent, noting that other commercial activities witnessed a wide turnout, especially in the sectors of restaurants, cafes, amusement parks and camping sites.

Salem bin Namshan Al Kaabi,

Director of the Events and Awareness Department in Al Buraimi Governorate, confirmed that the National Day celebration event in Al Buraimi Public Park, which is organised by the governorate, contributed to attracting large numbers of visitors from inside and outside the governorate, due to the artistic segments and diverse heritage performances it included.

Consulate office of South Africa officially inaugurated in Muscat

The opening of this new consulate marks an important milestone in enhancing bilateral cooperation



Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a significant step towards boosting diplomatic and economic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of South Africa, the honorary consulate office of South Africa was officially inaugurated in Muscat.

The opening ceremony took place at the new consulate premises in Shatti Al Qurum under the patronage of Khalid bin Hashel Al-Muslahi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Administrative and Financial Affairs, and in the presence of Lujaina bint Mohsin Al-Zuabi, Honorary Consul of South Africa in Oman, and Mgoobo David Magabe, Ambassador of South Africa to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and non-resident Ambassador to Oman. The event was also attended by several accredited ambassadors to Oman, prominent

South African figures, members of the diplomatic corps, and distinguished representatives from the business community.

The opening of this new consulate marks an important milestone in enhancing bilateral cooperation, promoting trade and investment, and strengthening ties between the peoples of both nations.

In his speech on the occasion, Khalid bin Hashel Al-Muslahi praised the growing partnership between Oman and South Africa, reaffirming the mutual commitment to deepening diplomatic, cultural, and economic relations.

Lujaina bint Mohsin Al-Zuabi expressed her pride and gratitude for the opportunity to represent South Africa in Oman, considering the opening of the consulate a vital step in strengthening ties between the two countries.

The newly appointed Honorary Consul highlighted the longstanding commitment of Oman

and South Africa to cooperation, cultural understanding, and shared progress.

The consulate aims to foster closer relations in trade, tourism, education, and culture, serving as a gateway for citizens of both nations. She expressed appreciation to the South African government and Omani leadership for their continued support, concluding her speech with a pledge to work with dedication and unity toward a brighter future for both countries. For his part, Mgoobo David Magabe emphasised that the official opening of the Honorary Consulate in Muscat enhances diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations between South Africa and Oman, and strengthens people-to-people ties.

He also affirmed that the appointment of Lujaina bint Mohsin Al-Zuabi as Honorary Consul reflects the shared commitment to cooperation and future opportunities between the two nations.

WADI MISTAL

Adventure event kicks off

MUSCAT: The Jurf Oman adventure event was officially launched in the scenic, mountainous village of Hadsh in Wadi Mistal, located within the Wilayat of Nakhal. Held under the patronage of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, the two-day event, running from November 28th to 29th, has successfully gathered more than 50 adventurers from Oman and abroad.



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Fluency in English & Strong soft skills.
Selected candidates will be invited for
WALK-IN INTERVIEW
Send your CVs to principal.isrustaq@gmail.com
On or before 06 December 2025



MUSCAT GOVERNORATE
MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No. 47/2025

In reference to Advertisement No (40/2025), Muscat Municipality informs you of the modification of the dates related to the tender as follows:

Serial	Bidding No.	Bidding description	Deadline for submission
1	13/2025	Investment of Plot No. (1022) located in Al Qurum area, Wilayat of Bousher	04/12/2025

NOTES:

- If the bidders have any inquiries regarding the scope of the work, they have to sent their inquiries through the following e-mail (mais.h.alnofi@mm.gov.om)
- 10:00 AM on the above submission mentioned dates, is the last timing for receiving bids. Offers submitted after the above mentioned date & time shall not be accepted for any reason.
- Muscat Municipality has the right to accept or reject any offer without assigning any reason.

Website: www.mm.gov.om

Tender Announcement of Poultry Chicken Manure
Tender No.: AFPC/PCM/2025/01

Arabian Food Production Company Dry/Wet Manure Supply Contract (One Year, Renewable), and invites sealed tenders for the public auction of Wet and Dry Manure.

Type & Quantity	Location	Inspection	Tender Fee	Last Date for Tender Submission	Tender Opening
At MPF barka location, the estimated monthly production of wet manure is 2,000 to 2,500 MT or 500 to 750 MT of dry manure. At GIPF lbri location, the estimated monthly production of wet manure is 4,500 to 5,000 MT or 1,350 to 1,500 Mt of dry manure.	Barka & lbri	From 30/11/2025 to 10/12/2025, between 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Inspection by prior appointment only.	OMR:150 Non-refundable Payable by bank draft or certified cheque in favor of Arabian Food Production Company.	21/12/2025 12:00 PM	25/12/2025 12:00 PM "in the presence of bidders"

Sales Conditions:

- Items sold on "as-is, where-is" basis.
- Successful bidder to sign contract within 5 working days.
- The company reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

Contact no: Mr. Khan Mir Salman +968 92478139

Email: khan.salman@arabianfood.om

Contact no: Mr. Khalfan Al Syabi +968-99328412

Email: khalfan.alsiyabi@arabianfood.om

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Website: www.arabianfood.om

Omani medical team removes cancerous tumour from child

The child had been diagnosed with a large tumour of the musculoskeletal cancer type, which is one of the most aggressive and rapidly spreading types of malignant tumours in children

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An Omani medical team at the Royal Hospital successfully removed a virulent cancerous tumour from the liver of a three-year-old child, in a complex operation that lasted six hours.

The child had been diagnosed with a large tumour of the musculoskeletal cancer type, which is one of the most aggressive and rapidly spreading types of malignant tumours in children.

It originates in muscle tissue and is characterised by its ability to spread to neighbouring organs and move to other parts of the body.

The tumour affected about 80 percent of the liver, extending to the abdominal wall and internal organs, including the colon.

Al-Warith bin Ahmed Al-Hashimi, Consultant of Liver and Pancreas Surgery and Transplantation and Head of the Organ Transplantation Department at the Royal Hospital, told the Oman News Agency that preserving the vital functions of the liver and other organs was a priority in the complex surgical procedure to remove the liver tumour, as preserving a small part of healthy liver tissue was the biggest challenge they faced in preparing for the operation.

He added that the treatment



plan began with pre-chemotherapy to reduce the size of the tumour, which occupied about 80 percent of the liver, thus allowing a small part of the liver to remain able to regain its functions after the operation.

He stated that during the surgery, he relied on meticulous planning using advanced imaging to identify the vital blood vessels that feed the remaining healthy part, in addition to careful monitoring of blood flow and body functions, in cooperation with the anesthesia team specialising in liver surgery.

He reported that modern techniques were used in the liver tissue resection procedure to reduce bleeding and protect the bile ducts, to ensure that the remaining part of the liver would be able to gradually regain its vital functions after surgery.

Regarding the prevalence of this type of tumour in the younger age group, he explained that it is very rare in children, and often appears suddenly without prior signs or

symptoms. There are no clear risk factors or specific genetic causes associated with this type of tumor, which necessitates surgical intervention and accurate diagnosis.

He touched on the latest surgical protocols used in the operation, which include prior chemotherapy to shrink the tumour, as well as precise surgical planning using advanced radiation to determine the relationship between the tumour and major blood vessels. Modern techniques were also applied to cut liver tissue, which contributed to reducing bleeding and protecting the remaining healthy tissue, and precise protocols were followed for managing blood and coagulation during the operation.

He affirmed that this achievement enhances the Royal Hospital's position as one of the leading centres in treating liver tumours in children, especially complex and rare ones, as the success of the operation demonstrated the hospital's ability to deal with cases in which the tumor occupies

most of the liver.

He pointed out that the Royal Hospital has the advanced infrastructure that supports the performance of such complex operations, as well as an integrated treatment system that combines chemotherapy and surgery, with close follow-up of patients after the operation.

The Consultant of Liver and Pancreas Surgery and Transplantation and Head of the Organ Transplantation Department at the Royal Hospital, confirmed that this achievement reflects the hospital's ability to provide advanced medical care within the Sultanate of Oman, which reduces the need to transfer patients abroad and enhances its position as a leading destination for the treatment of complex liver tumours according to the highest international standards.

The medical team explained that the condition was initially inoperable due to the size of the tumour and its entanglement with vital organs. However, a precise treatment plan was developed that included giving the child doses of chemotherapy to reduce the size of the tumour, which later enabled the team to perform surgical intervention to remove it.

During the operation, the affected part of the liver, the right side of the colon, and the affected part of the abdominal wall were removed, with the application of the latest surgical and therapeutic protocols followed in such complex cases.

The surgical team explained that the biggest challenge was preserving the vital functions of the organs during the removal of the huge tumour that threatened the child's life, stressing that the operation was a complete success, and that the child has gradually recovered and is now in good health and under close medical supervision to complete the stages of treatment according to international protocols.

This success is a medical achievement that highlights the efficiency of the national staff at the Royal Hospital and their ability to deal with the rarest and most complex cases with an efficiency that rivals advanced international centres.



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ON HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT

Oman to host major regional conference

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will host the 24th Arab Conference titled 'Modern Methods in Hospital Management: The Role of the Private and Third Sectors in Strengthening Health Systems', organised by the Arab Organisation for Administrative Development. The two-days conference will begin on December 10. The 24th edition is distinguished by the announcement of the launch of the "Mohammed Al-Saleem Award for Excellence in the Health Sector," based on the recommendations of the conference in its 23rd session, as a pioneering initiative to honour researchers in the fields of public health and health management.

The award aims to be a motivational platform that promotes scientific research in this field, and utilise research outputs to support the efforts of health facilities to improve the quality of services and patient safety, enhance the patient experience, and develop health management and systems in Arab countries according to the best international standards, in a way that contributes to bringing about a qualitative shift in the level of health services provided in Arab societies.

The conference targets health ministers and administrative leaders, members of health authorities and councils, medical unions and associations, deans and faculty members and students of medical, health and administrative colleges, in addition to hospital administrations, investors in the health sector, and representatives of regional and international organisations,

civil society and insurance companies.

The conference will include a number of sessions that will review modern trends in integration between the public, private and third sectors (civil society organisations and non-profit organisations), with the aim of achieving universal health coverage and enhancing the financial sustainability of health projects.

The conference addresses several important themes through discussion sessions that highlight the importance of integration between different sectors, and focus on mechanisms for dealing with health disasters.

The dialogue sessions also discuss the role of sectoral integration in achieving financial sustainability, and provide insights on health endowments and the impact of health insurance in supporting financing.

The conference will also review mechanisms for enhancing integration between sectors, with a focus on transparency and effective governance, highlighting opportunities and enablers, and the importance of electronic connectivity and digital transformation as tools to enhance interaction between sectors.

The conference will showcase successful Arab and international models and experiences in cross-sector collaboration, providing a platform for exchanging expertise and perspectives.

The conference in Muscat is expected to produce important recommendations that underscore the significance of this event in driving development and innovation in the healthcare sector across the Arab world.

NATIONAL DAY HOLIDAY

Oman returns to work after four-day National Day weekend

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman returned to work on Sunday after a four-day National Day weekend that saw brisk business for hotels, resorts and travel agencies across the Sultanate.

Residents enjoyed an extended break after Wednesday, November 26, and Thursday, November 27 were declared official holidays, prompting many to opt for staycations or short domestic getaways.

Hotels across the country reported a significant rise in occupancy, with many properties fully booked over the weekend. Endorsing the trend, Jagdeep Thakral, General Manager of dusitD2 Naseem Resort Jabal Akhdar, said the property witnessed an extraordinary surge in visitors.

"We had an exceptional weekend. From Wednesday to Saturday we saw an uplift, with Thursday and Friday being packed. We witnessed a 100 per cent surge compared to our regular weekends this time," he told Times of Oman.

Dusit International, one of Thailand's leading hospitality groups, operates the dusitD2 Naseem Resort in Jabal Akhdar, home to one of Oman's most unique adventure parks.

Restaurants in the capital also saw strong turnout. Aizat Duishekeeva, Head of Jungle Restaurant Complex and Bahja Hall in Qurum, highlighted the success of the outlet's newly revamped menu. "The Jungle Restaurant has been around, but our menu hasn't," she said. "We have introduced a brand-new menu that takes guests on a culinary journey from the tops of the mountains to the bottom of the seas, with delicious, crisp and fresh recipes."

Many hotels also offered curated overnight desert packages, giving travellers the chance to experience Oman's landscapes in luxury. Meanwhile, some residents chose to travel abroad during the break. Travel agents reported high demand for short-haul holiday packages, with Dubai, Azerbaijan and Georgia emerging as the most popular destinations.

— Pictures by Puroshotaman K



Airbus orders A320 software changes, flights disrupted

The incident that appears to have brought the issue to light involved a JetBlue flight from Cancun, Mexico to Newark, New Jersey, on October 30



PARIS: European aerospace giant Airbus on Friday ordered an immediate software change on a significant number of its A320 family of jets following an incident last month. Airbus said in a statement that a recent incident revealed that intense solar radiation may corrupt data critical to the functioning of flight controls. The incident that appears to

have brought the issue to light involved a JetBlue flight from Cancun, Mexico to Newark, New Jersey, on October 30, according to Reuters. That flight made an emergency landing at Tampa, Florida, and several people were taken to hospital after a flight control problem and a sudden uncommanded drop in altitude. Airbus says action may lead to

delays over busy travel weekend “Airbus has consequently identified a significant number of A320 Family aircraft currently in-service which may be impacted,” the company said. “Airbus acknowledges these recommendations will lead to operational disruptions to passengers and customers,” the statement added. Industry sources said the scale

of the operation is expected to cause significant disruption to its entire fleet of A320 jets, that encompasses some 6,000 jets. Hundreds of jets may also have to have hardware changed that could take weeks. The disruption comes as millions of Americans travel on airlines for the Thanksgiving holiday period.

Air India, IndiGo announce delays, advisory issued

NEW DELHI: The New Delhi : Air travel across several routes may face disruptions as domestic carriers Air India and IndiGo on Saturday announced potential delays and schedule adjustments following a technical directive issued by Airbus for its global A320 family fleet. In a post on X, Air India wrote it is “aware of a directive from Airbus related to its A320 family aircraft currently in-service across airline operators,” noting that the requirement will involve a “software/hardware realignment” on part of its fleet. “We are aware of a directive from Airbus related to its A320 family aircraft currently in service across

airline operators. This will result in a software/hardware realignment on a part of our fleet, leading to longer turnaround time and delays to our scheduled operations,” the post read. In a separate post, IndiGo said that “safety comes first” and confirmed it is carrying out the mandated updates across its A320 aircraft “with full diligence and care, in line with all safety protocols.” “Our teams are here 24x7 to support you with rebooking, updates, and information. Please check your latest flight status on our app/website before heading to the airport. Thank you for your patience and trust on us,” IndiGo wrote. -ANI

IN 2026

Trump says South Africa is ‘killing white people’, bars from G20 summit

WASHINGTON, DC: US President Donald Trump on Friday announced that South Africa would not receive an invitation to the G20 Summit in 2026 when the United States holds the presidency. Trump also cited the US absence from the recent G20 Summit in Johannesburg. In a detailed post on X, Trump accused the South African government of failing to acknowledge alleged human rights violations faced by certain settlers. He wrote, “To put it more bluntly, they are killing white people, and randomly allowing their farms to be taken from them,” while asserting that “Afrikaners, and other descendants of Dutch, French, and German settlers” were experiencing human rights abuses. The G20 Leaders’ Summit, held last weekend in Johannesburg, saw the participation of several



world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, the United States chose not to send a delegation, maintaining its stand throughout the event. Trump further claimed that South Africa declined to hand over the G20 Presidency to an Ameri-

ment, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa termed the move “regrettable” and noted that his government had consistently worked to strengthen diplomatic ties with Washington. On reports about the G20 gavel handover, South Africa’s Presidency clarified that “As the United States was not present at the summit, instruments of the G20 presidency were duly handed over to a US Embassy official at the Headquarters of South Africa’s Department of International Relations and Cooperation.” Trump has frequently repeated claims of persecution of the white minority in South Africa, including allegations of a genocide of white farmers, claims that have been rejected previously by the South African government as well as white community leaders in the country. -ANI

IN US

DR Congo, Rwanda to sign peace deal

NEW YORK: Democratic Republic of Congo’s President Felix Tshisekedi will travel to the United States next week to finalize a peace agreement and meet with Rwandan President Paul Kagame, the Congolese government announced on Friday. The meeting, slated for December 4, aims to advance a US-brokered peace deal reached in June, capping months of diplomatic efforts led by US President Donald Trump. The leaders of Congo and Rwanda are expected to ratify the final deal along with a Regional Economic Integration Framework negotiated earlier this month, according to Tina Salama, a spokesperson for Tshisekedi. “The president has always desired regional integration, but respect for sovereignty is non-negotiable and a prerequisite for re-

gional integration,” Salama said. Tshisekedi’s confirmation of the December 4 signing comes one day after his counterpart Kagame cautioned that durable peace in eastern Congo will require genuine commitment from both sides. “Some of these processes will not work not just because we are meeting in Washington or the powerful United States is involved, but until those people concerned directly are committed to achieving end results,” Kagame said. Eastern Congo has endured years of conflict between government forces and more than 100 different armed groups, most notably the M23 rebels. The conflict intensified this year as M23 captured the major cities of Goma and Bukavu, deepening an already severe humanitarian crisis. -DW

MASSIVE FIRE

8 more held in Hong Kong fire case that killed 128 people

HONG KONG: Eight more people have been arrested in connection with the massive fire at Wang Fuk Court residential compound in the Tai Po district, Hong Kong’s Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) said on Friday. According to the Global Times, the ICAC has launched an investigation into possible corruption linked to the building’s repair and maintenance works. The eight arrested individuals include engineering consultants, scaffolding subcontractors, and a middleman. A local official informed that firefighting and rescue operations were nearly concluded after days of efforts to combat the deadly fire that claimed at least 128 lives. The number of people who have been killed in the devastating fire at an apartment complex in Hong Kong rose to 128, with as many as 200 people still missing, CNN reported on Friday, citing officials, as firefighters brought the blaze under control 42 hours after it ignited. According to CNN, at least 79 people were injured in the fire, which rapidly spread through multiple buildings in a public housing estate in the Tai Po neighbourhood, Hong Kong Secretary for Security Chris Tang said during a press conference on Friday. He warned that the death toll could rise further as there are about 200 people whose situation is unknown. As per him, this figure includes a number of dead bodies yet to be identified. Wang Fuk Court, an affordable housing complex completed in 1983, houses around 4,000 residents in 1,984 units. When the fire



broke out, all eight buildings were enclosed in green mesh and scaffolding as part of a major renovation project. The fire started from the scaffolding outside one building and spread to six others, Xinhua reported. On Thursday, Hong Kong Police arrested three men linked to the renovation project on suspicion of “gross negligence” and for suspected manslaughter. Officials said early findings indicate that the polystyrene boards and other construction materials, such as nets and canvas, did not meet safety standards, CNN re-

ported. “These polystyrene boards are extremely inflammable, and the fire spread very rapidly,” Director of Fire Services Andy Yeung said, as quoted by CNN, adding that their presence on residential windows was “unusual” and had been referred to the police for further investigation. Xinhua reported that the HK-SAR government has ordered a city-wide safety inspection on all scaffolding and construction materials used in renovation projects for buildings, according to the chief executive. -ANI

IDF RAID

Israeli operation in southern Syria leaves at least 13 dead



DAMASCUS: An Israeli operation in the southern Syrian village of Beit Jin left at least 13 people dead, witnesses and Syrian media reports said on Friday. What do we know about the Israeli raid in Syria? The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said it detained suspected members of the Jamaa Islamiya group who were planning attacks against Israel. Jamaa Islamiya is a political party and anti-Zionist organisation based in neighbouring Lebanon. Jamaa Islamiya has an armed wing called the al-Fajr Forces. Israel said six of its soldiers were injured in the early morning raid, with three of them in serious condition. Syrian state television reported that families fled the area where

the IDF raid took place. Israeli forces reportedly took three men into custody. Syrian local official Abdul Rahman al-Hamrawi told the AFP news agency that after the clashes, Israel “shelled the area with artillery and drones.” Syria says Israel carried out ‘war crime’ The Syrian Foreign Ministry denounced what it called Israel’s “criminal aggression” in Beit Jin, adding that Israel’s actions seek to “ignite the region in conflict.” “This is a war crime,” the Foreign Ministry said. Rami Abdel Rahman, the head of the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor, told the German news agency dpa that the Israeli operation was the largest in Syria since the fall of

former Syrian President Bashar Assad last year. The Assad family had ruled Syria for decades. A group of rebels led by Ahmad al-Sharaa ousted Assad, with al-Sharaa now serving as Syria’s transitional president. During the political transition in Syria in December, Israel said it expanded a buffer zone with its neighbor to ensure Israelis’ security. Al-Sharaa has urged Israel to stop its incursion into Syrian territory. He has also said he does not want direct conflict with Israel and would prefer Syria focus on rebuilding after more than a decade of civil war. Although Syria and Israel do not have formal diplomatic relations, the two have recently been in talks over a potential security agreement to deescalate. -DW

SPORTS

FORMULA ONE

Norris takes third as title rival Piastri clinches Qatar GP sprint race

DOHA: Oscar Piastri cut McLaren team-mate Lando Norris' championship lead by two points with victory in the sprint race at the Qatar Grand Prix on Saturday.

The Australian led an uneventful race from start to finish as Norris trailed home behind Mercedes' George Russell, the top three finishing in the order in which they started.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen moved up from sixth on the grid to finish fourth, losing one point to Norris in the championship.

Norris now leads Piastri by 22 points and Verstappen by 25 heading into Sunday's grand prix.



"I mean it's been a good weekend so far," said Piastri.

"I think everything went smoothly in the Sprint. I'm happy with how it's been so far, just need to keep it rolling."

If Norris wins the grand prix, he will be champion. If either Piastri

or Verstappen does, then the battle will go to the final race in Abu Dhabi next weekend.

Verstappen made up two places at the start as he followed team-mate Yuki Tsunoda past the Aston Martin of Fernando Alonso, who had excelled in putting his uncompetitive car fourth on the grid, and the Japanese then let the Dutchman past.

Verstappen challenged Norris for the first few laps, even feigning an overtaking attempt on the Briton at one point, but eventually began to drop back complaining of bouncing and jumping from his car.

After the first three corners, the only overtaking move in the points positions was when Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli took advantage of Alonso running wide out of the final corner at the end of lap 12 to pass down the inside of Turn One at the start of the following lap.

Both Tsunoda and Antonelli were given five-second penalties for exceeding track limits too many times, leaving both in the same fifth and sixth positions.

Alonso took two valuable points for Aston Martin in seventh while Williams' Carlos Sainz earned the final point in eighth.

Ferrari had a dire race. Charles

Leclerc dropped from ninth on the grid to finish 13th, after two off-track moments, while Lewis Hamilton finished 17th after starting from the pit lane.

Others who failed to score were Hadjar in P9 and Alex Albon in P10, followed by Gabriel Bortoleto and Ollie Bearman, meaning that Kick Sauber is still the only team without a point from a Sprint this season.

Lawson was 14th ahead of Esteban Ocon and Nico Hulkenberg, with the remaining pit lane starters treating the session as a testing event and pitting for fresh tyres at various stages. - Agencies

Pakistan defeat Sri Lanka to claim tri-series title

Shaheen Afridi and Mohammad Nawaz took three wickets each as Sri Lanka were dismissed for 114

RAWALPINDI: A dramatic batting collapse by Sri Lanka handed Pakistan a comfortable six-wicket win in the tri-series final at Rawalpindi on Saturday, as the visitors were reduced from 81/1 to 114 all out in a stunning middle-order meltdown.

Shaheen Afridi and Mohammad Nawaz were the architects of the collapse, each claiming three wickets, while Pakistan chased down the target of 115 with eight balls left.

Sri Lanka, sent into bat on a dry, cracked pitch, made a promising start. Kamil Mishara and Kusal Mendis put together 56 runs in the powerplay, with only Pathum Nissanka (11) falling early, bowled by Shaheen Afridi's clever slower delivery in the third over.

But it was Mishara, displaying his aggressive flair, who took the attack to Pakistan, hitting 17 runs off Salman Mirza in the final over of the powerplay. Kusal Mendis provided the perfect support at the other end, rotating the strike to allow Mishara to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Mishara's innings of 59 came off just 47 balls, giving Sri Lanka the upper hand at 84/2 in the 11th over. However, the momentum shifted dramatically with the dismissal of Kusal Mendis (14), caught in the



deep off Mohammad Nawaz. What followed was a relentless Pakistani onslaught: Saim Ayub accounted for the well-set Mishara, Abrar Ahmed removed Kusal Perera and Pavan Rathnayake in quick succession, and Nawaz struck twice more, bowling Janith Liyanage and Wanindu Hasaranga.

Shaheen Afridi then finished the job, sending back Dasun Shanaka and Maheesh Theekshana with his trademark slower balls, leaving Dushmantha Chameera to fall to Salman Mirza in the final over. Sri Lanka's innings closed at 114 in 19.1 overs.

Pakistan's chase proved far less stressful. Sahibzada Farhan (23) and Saim Ayub (36) put on 46 for the opening wicket, reaching fifty in

just 7.5 overs. Farhan fell trying to slog across the line, but Babar Azam and Ayub quickly steadied the innings, adding 29 runs for the second wicket before Ayub was trapped lbw by Wanindu Hasaranga.

The pitch offered some assistance to the bowlers, but with the target so modest, Pakistan never looked in trouble. Babar Azam and Salman Agha added another 23 runs at close to a run-a-ball pace, and Babar remained unbeaten on 37 off 34 balls alongside Fakhar Zaman to see Pakistan home, sealing tri-series victory with 18.4 overs to spare.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka: 114 all out in 19.1 overs (Mishara 59; Nawaz 3-17, Afridi 3-18) lost to Pakistan: 118/4 in 18.4 overs (Babar 37*, Ayub 36; Pavan Rathnayake 2-11). - Agencies



GULF 3X3 BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Oman-A miss out on semis spot despite thrilling win over Kuwait



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman-A came agonisingly close to reaching the semi-finals of the ongoing Gulf 3x3 Basketball Championship at Al Mouj Muscat, only to be denied by point differential despite a thrilling 19-15 victory over Kuwait on Friday.

The nail-biting result capped a day of highs and heartbreak for Oman's men's teams as the competition intensified against the region's top sides.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait advanced to the semi-finals over Oman-A after the point differential came into play, with all three teams finishing level on points. Bahrain and Qatar completed the



final four line-up.

Oman-A were dominant in their win over Kuwait. Ahmed Al Sinani opened the scoring, with Osama Al Riyami and Ahmed Al Halhali helping

well-deserved 19-15 victory.

Meanwhile, Oman-B suffered heartbreak of its own, losing 18-17 to Bahrain after leading early. The Omanis held leads of 4-0, 6-3, and 8-5, but Bahrain fought back, leveling the score multiple times before scoring the decisive point in the final seconds.

In the women's competition, Oman's teams showed fighting spirit but also could not progress to the last four rounds.

Oman-A narrowly lost to Kuwait 15-14 in a tense encounter that went down to the final moments. Oman-B struggled against a strong Qatari side, falling 21-7, while earlier matches saw Oman-A beaten 19-10 by Saudi Arabia and Oman-

B go down 21-4 to Bahrain.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar have secured places in the semi-finals of both men's and women's competitions.

Oman's efforts in hosting the Gulf championship also drew praise from regional basketball leaders, highlighting not only the competitiveness of the tournament but also the country's growing reputation as a capable host for major sporting events.

Abdullatif Nasser Al Fardan, President of the UAE Basketball Federation, said, "Oman's organisation has been exceptional. The matches were highly competitive, and the close level among Gulf teams reflects the sport's develop-

ment in the region.

"Hosting both the Arab and Gulf championships so successfully shows that Oman is fully capable of delivering a major integrated sporting event."

Dari Burjas, President of the Kuwait Basketball Federation, said, "The technical standard displayed on the opening day was impressive, and the organisation has been outstanding in every aspect."

"Most teams arrived with strong ambitions to compete for the title, and Oman's ability to host two major consecutive championships demonstrates the trust placed in the Oman Basketball Association and its capacity to deliver events worthy of the participating teams."

SUPPLY OF WIND TOWERS
Ophiolite Oman has signed a strategic agreement with Spain's Windtechnic Engineering to cooperate in the manufacturing and supply of wind towers for renewable energy projects in the Sultanate of Oman.



HUTCHISON PORTS SOHAR
Hutchison Ports Sohar, the gateway port of Oman, has signed an agreement with Westwell, a global pioneer in scenario-based new energy autonomous driving. Under this agreement, 15 state-of-the-art E-Trucks will be deployed at Sohar Port.

Economy shows resilience as non-hydrocarbon sectors surge

The IMF expert mission said that inflation in Oman eased to 0.6 percent in 2024 and remained contained at 0.9 percent during January-October 2025 and the fiscal balance posted a surplus of 3.3 percent of GDP in 2024

MUSCAT: Oman's economic growth remained strong in 2024 and the first half of 2025, supported by expansions in manufacturing, wholesale and retail, logistics, construction, and agriculture and fishing, while hydrocarbon GDP contracted due to Opec+ production curbs.

This was stated by the IMF expert mission in its concluding statement of its meetings on Thursday. The just conclude meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) experts mission to the Sultanate of Oman was within the framework of the 2025 Article IV Consultations.

During the meetings, discussions were held with a number of officials in government units and representatives from the private and banking sectors regarding the latest macroeconomic developments and expected future outlook, as well as fiscal and monetary



policies, financial sector development, and structural reforms.

The IMF expert mission statement indicated that inflation in Oman eased to 0.6 percent in 2024 and remained contained at 0.9 percent during January-October 2025. The fiscal balance posted a surplus of 3.3 percent of GDP in 2024, while the current account also recorded a surplus of 3.2 percent of GDP. Government debt stood at 36.1 percent of GDP by September 2025.

The economic outlook remains favourable, as per the statement. The statement further added that growth is projected to strengthen over 2025-26 as oil production cuts unwind and non-hydrocarbon

activity continues to expand. Inflation is expected to stay low and converge toward 2 percent over the medium term.

Fiscal and external positions are anticipated to remain solid, with fiscal surpluses projected to persist. The current account is projected to shift into deficit in 2025-27, driven mainly by lower oil prices, before gradually returning to surplus as oil production recovers toward potential capacity and non-hydrocarbon exports strengthen.

The non-hydrocarbon primary deficit is estimated to have narrowed by 2 percent of non-hydrocarbon GDP in 2025, supported by expenditure restraint and im-

proved non-hydrocarbon revenue collection.

"Continued progress on tax administration modernisation, rolling out VAT e-invoicing, and introducing a personal income tax on high-income earners in 2028 will be central to reinforcing fiscal sustainability. Further fiscal reforms—including rationalising non-essential current spending, phasing out non targeted energy subsidies, while protecting the most vulnerable, strengthening the medium-term fiscal framework, and developing a sovereign asset-liability management framework—will be essential to entrench fiscal sustainability and enhance policy credibility."

The steadfast implementation of the Monetary Policy Enhancement Project—including introducing an Omani Rial standing deposit facility and operationalising the interest rate corridor—, and gradually transitioning to a full-fledged treasury single account will strengthen monetary policy transmissi

Further, the statement indicated that continued efforts to strengthen the macro-prudential framework, enhance granularity of regulatory data and supervisory capacity, improve the financial safety net and crisis management, and deepen capital markets to diversify financing sources for the private sector will be essential to

safeguarding financial stability and fostering financial sector development.

The statement pointed out that the 11th Development Plan presents an important opportunity to accelerate economic diversification, boost productivity, and create more private-sector jobs for Omanis. Priorities include advancing labor market reforms, improving the business environment, strengthening market competition to increase private sector participation in the economy, enhancing SME support, deepening trade integration, pursuing renewables initiatives, and scaling up the digital transformation—including AI readiness. - **ONA**

WEEKLY REVIEW

Individual investors lift Muscat Stock Exchange trading to OMR28.7 million

MUSCAT: The Muscat Stock Exchange recorded an increase in the daily trading during the week, which rose to OMR28.7 million compared to OMR26.9 million in the previous week. Omani individual investors turned to buying, taking 16.3 percent of the total trading value compared to sales of 10.5 percent.

Meanwhile, local investment funds and institutions turned to selling during the week, with their sales accounting for 84.4 percent of the total trading value, compared to purchases of 75.3 percent.

The week saw three trading days, as the stock exchange was closed for the glorious National Day holiday on Wednesday and Thursday. The value of trading in the three days amounted to OMR86.1 million and 12,491 transactions were executed during the week.

Investors targeted shares of Bank Muscat and Bank Sohar International, which accounted for more than 48 percent of the total trading value. Bank Muscat shares saw trading worth OMR27.8 million, representing 32.3 percent of the total trading value, while Bank Sohar International shares saw trading worth more than OMR14 million, representing 16.3 percent of the total trading value.

Shares of OQ Group also witnessed investor interest, with OQ Exploration and Production shares trading at a value of OMR11.7 million, representing 13.6 percent of the total trading value. Trading value for OQ Basic Industries shares reached OMR8.2 million, while OQ Gas Networks shares saw trading at more than OMR6 million, accounting for about 7 percent of the total trading value.

The Muscat Stock Exchange indices showed mixed performance during the week. While the financial sector index and the industrial index recorded gains of 50 and 39 points respectively, the other in-



dices declined by 12 points for the services sector index, 3 points for the Sharia index, and 11 points for the main index, which closed at 5635 points, marking a decline for the second week in a row.

The market capitalisation of the Muscat Stock Exchange at the close of trading session during the week reached OMR31.38 billion, recording limited losses of OMR1.6 million.

During the week, the prices of 32 securities rose, compared to 27 securities whose prices declined and 26 securities that remained unchanged at their previous levels. Salalah Port Services stock recorded the best rise, increasing by 10 percent and closing at 330 baisa. International Financial Investments Holding stock rose by 9.7 percent and closed at 181 baisa.

Oman Finance Free Bonds issued in 2020 recorded an increase of 6.6 percent and closed at 80 baisa.

The Financial Services stock led the losing stocks, declining by 9.3 percent and closing at 116 baisa. Dhofar Food and Investment stock also declined by 9.3 percent and closed at 68 baisa, while Al Anwar Investments stock recorded a decline of 3.9 percent and closed at 98 baisa.

In company news: The National Mineral Water Company announced the completion of the subscription to its bonds, amounting to OMR4 million, at an issue price of one Omani riyal per bond. The company noted that the bonds have a term of 7 years, are unsecured and non-convertible, and carry a fixed return rate of 8 percent payable semi-annually.

This release represents an important milestone in the company's performance development plan, supporting its long-term goals and directing returns towards strengthening the financial position and supporting initiatives aimed at improving operational performance and achieving sustainable growth.

Majan College Company invited its shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting scheduled for December 11. The meeting will include a proposal to distribute cash dividends of 7.2 baisa per share and to distribute bonus shares to shareholders at a rate of 10 percent of the capital, equivalent to one share for every 10 shares. This distribution will increase the company's capital from OMR9 million to OMR9.9 million. - **ONA**

FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY



FSA reduces dividend distribution period for shareholders to 7 days

MUSCAT: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) issued a circular to all public joint-stock companies and investment funds mandating the reduction of the period for transferring due dividend distributions to shareholders and unit holders from 15 days to a period not exceeding 7 days from the date of the General Assembly meeting or the Board of Directors meeting.

The FSA explained that the circular aims to accelerate the dividend distribution process in the capital market, reflecting the organisational efficiency of the Omani market. It emphasized the importance of ensuring that the disclosure of the General Assembly or Board of Directors decision, which approved cash dividend distribution to investors, includes the eligibility date determined by the Board of Directors for interim profits.

The FSA called upon all public joint-stock companies and investment funds to ensure the transfer of the approved cash dividends to the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company (MCD) within a period not exceeding 4

The FSA explained that the circular aims to accelerate the dividend distribution process in the capital market, reflecting the organisational efficiency of the Omani market

working days from the date of the General Assembly meeting, the Board meeting, or the eligibility date. It confirmed that the MCD is responsible for transferring the dividends to the bank accounts of their beneficiaries within a period not exceeding 3 working days from receiving the dividends from the issuing entities. - **ONA**

MARKET

Hutchison Ports Sohar inks pact to deploy 15 electric container trucks

As the first project of its kind deployed across all terminals in Oman, these eTrucks highlight Hutchison Ports Sohar’s unwavering commitment to advancing the Sultanate’s development and investing in a greener, more sustainable future

Times News Service

SHANGHAI, CHINA: Hutchison Ports Sohar, the gateway port of Oman, has signed an agreement with Westwell, a global pioneer in scenario-based new energy autonomous driving. Under this agreement, 15 state-of-the-art Electric Container Trucks (E-Trucks) will be deployed at Sohar Port, marking a significant step toward smarter and greener port operations.

The E-Truck project is part of the company’s broader sustainability roadmap, aligning with



Oman Vision 2040 and the Sultanate’s Net-Zero 2050 Target. As the first project of its kind deployed across all terminals in Oman, these E-Trucks highlight Hutchison Ports Sohar’s unwavering commitment to advancing the Sultanate’s development and investing in a greener, more sustainable future.

To enhance operational efficiency and support green port development, Hutchison Ports Sohar will introduce 15 E-Trucks from West-

well. Each E-Truck is powered by a high-capacity 282kWh battery, offering a range of up to 150 kilometers. The E-Trucks support fast charging and fully unmanned 5-minute battery swaps, enabling seamless 24/7 operations.

Compared to conventional diesel trucks, the E-Trucks deliver zero emissions and low noise levels, while significantly improving safety and comfort through intelligent driving assistance systems

and ergonomic cabin design. They also support progressive upgrades from L2 to L4 autonomous driving. Westwell’s E-Trucks have already been successfully deployed in countries such as Thailand, Peru, Pakistan, and Egypt.

Anacin Kum, CEO of Hutchison Ports Sohar, commented: “We’re pleased to partner with Westwell to bring E-Trucks to Sohar Port. This initiative not only enhances terminal efficiency and supports

our green development goals but also reflects our commitment to sustainable innovation. We are proud to contribute to a cleaner, smarter future for ports and logistics in the region.”

Vincent Zhang, President of Westwell, added: “We are honored to work with Hutchison Ports Sohar to bring our green and smart E-Trucks to the Middle East. Westwell will continue innovating to help global ports achieve

more efficient, low-carbon logistics and drive sustainable industry progress.

This collaboration marks a key milestone in Westwell’s expansion into the Middle East and reinforces Sohar Port’s position as a forward-looking logistics hub. Moving forward, Westwell will continue to support the port’s green and intelligent transformation, contributing to a more resilient and sustainable global supply chain.

REPORT



India’s FY26 GDP growth revised to 7.6%

NEW DELHI: India’s economy expanded 8.2 per cent in Q2 FY26, the highest in six quarters, backed by strong growth in manufacturing, construction, and services, according to the latest SBI Research Ecowrap report. The data shows that India’s economy is expected to grow at 7.6 per cent in FY26, driven largely by domestic demand and strong performance across manufacturing and services.

The report highlights that India’s nominal GDP is on track to reach about USD 4.1 trillion by the end of FY26, marking another milestone in the country’s economic journey. “With 8.0 per cent real GDP growth in H1 FY26, the overall growth for full fiscal would be approximately 7.6 per cent (Assuming 7.5 per cent-7.7 per cent in Q3 and 7 per cent in Q4),” the report said.

Nominal GDP grew by 8.7 per cent in Q2 FY26, higher than the 8.3 per cent recorded a year earlier. The gap between real and nominal GDP, which was 12 percentage points in Q1 FY23, has now narrowed to just 0.5 percentage points. Core Gross Value Added (excluding agriculture and public finance) rose 8.5 per cent, compared to 5.6 per cent last year.

The report underlines that growth is “largely domestic driven,” supported by services exports and low inflation.

Labour-intensive sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, construction, and personal and financial services have shown steady momentum. The agriculture sector grew 3.5 per cent, while industry expanded 7.7 per cent compared to 3.8 per cent a year ago. Manufacturing clocked a

sharp 9.1 per cent rise, and the services sector grew by 9.2 per cent, led by gains in finance, real estate, and trade-related activities.

On the expenditure side, private consumption rose by 7.9 per cent and capital formation by 7.3 per cent, reflecting a sustained demand environment. Imports, especially of capital goods, rare earths, and chemicals, supported higher investment activity, while the contraction in valuables such as gold indicated a shift toward productive spending.

The most striking finding from SBI Research was the surge in MSME credit growth. Between FY2009 and FY2025, incremental MSME credit stood at Rs 19.87 lakh crore an annual average of Rs 1.17 lakh crore. In just the first seven months of FY26, this figure has already reached Rs 3.74 lakh crore. Extrapolating current trends, FY26 could see incremental MSME credit of Rs 6.4 lakh crore, roughly 5.5 times higher than the 16-year average.

This surge, according to the report, shows that India’s growth is reaching deeper into its economic base, with small and medium enterprises playing a central role. With inflation remaining low and credit expanding, the report notes that the Reserve Bank of India may now focus on guiding rate expectations in its upcoming policy meeting while maintaining a neutral stance.

“With 7.6 per cent real GDP growth for FY26, our GDP is likely to cross USD 4 trillion by March’26 and for FY27 GDP is expected to be around USD 4.4 trillion. Thus, India is on the right track to reach USD 5 trillion by March’29,” the report stated. **ANI**

COLLABORATION

Ophiolite Oman partners with Spain’s Windtechnic Engineering to manufacture wind towers in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Ophiolite Oman has signed a strategic agreement with Spain’s Windtechnic Engineering to cooperate in the manufacturing and supply of wind towers for renewable energy projects in the Sultanate of Oman.

This partnership aligns with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 and the national strategy aimed at diversifying energy sources by focusing on sustainable and renewable solutions.

The collaboration brings together Ophiolite Oman’s expertise in engineering and precast concrete production with Windtechnic’s extensive experience in the design and construction of wind towers, thereby contributing to the development of renewable energy infrastructure and supporting the country’s transition toward clean energy.

Tariq bin Najeeb Al Khonji, Managing Director of Ophiolite Oman (A Mohamed & Ahmed Al Khonji Group Co.), stated that this partnership reflects the company’s commitment to supporting the national direction toward renewable energy, emphasizing that the project represents a strategic step toward localizing advanced technologies in the field of wind tower manufacturing in alignment with the targets of Oman Vision 2040.

He added that this partnership will enhance local content through the transfer of knowledge and advanced technologies to the Omani market, and through the development of national talent in wind tower manufacturing and related industrial processes. The project is also expected to create direct employment opportunities for Omani youth in engineering, production, and operations, while strengthening national capabilities in managing advanced industrial projects.

Market studies indicate that the wind tower manufacturing sector in the Sultanate of Oman is valued at approximately OMR120 million, positioning it as one of the most promising components of the national green economy and fully aligned with the country’s economic diversification and



clean energy objectives.

Windtechnic, headquartered in San Sebastián, Spain, is recognized as one of the world’s leading companies in the engineering and design of hybrid concrete wind towers for wind energy projects. Its expertise spans structural design, manufacturing, and supervision of tower installation at project sites around the world. Through this partnership, the two

companies aim to introduce state-of-the-art technologies and international standards into the Omani market, while strengthening local capabilities within the renewable energy sector.

Álvaro Landera, General Manager of Windtechnic Engineering, stated that the cooperation with Ophiolite Oman represents an important step toward localizing clean energy solutions in the

Sultanate, noting that the project opens new prospects for regional collaboration in wind tower manufacturing and in developing local technical competencies in line with the highest global standards.

The project will be implemented through industrial phases that include design, preparation, and the establishment of production lines, with operations scheduled to commence in the first quarter of 2026.



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FINANCE MANAGER well experienced M.Com with 20 yrs of Oman experience looking for senior position in finance and accounts, can join in short notice.

CONTACT: 95392251

FINANCE

Chartered Accountant with 16+ yrs Exp-as Finance Head (Halliburton, ASAAS, ATC, ME). Expertise in IFRS, Reporting, Consolidation, MIS, Budgets, Tax, ERP. Seeking senior finance role in Oman.

CONTACT: 96741587
Email-umarustad@gmail.com.

FINANCE

Indian Male B.Com, MBA, with 18 yrs in healthcare, trading, logistics, IVMS up to finalization with MIS, LC, LTR software expertise, ERP, tally, Odoo & online Ac-countings, valid Omani D/L, can be join with short notice period.

Contact : 99279626

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Contact Person: Mr. Jawed Tariq,
Procurement Specialist – [Mob.: +968 9986 1679]

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Experienced Senior Accountant 10+ years in financial accounting, auditing, VAT, and reporting seeks opportunity in Oman. MBA-Finance. Skilled in Tally ERP, Excel, Autoline, reporting, audit, tax, and compliance.

Contact: 94792025 / vjinuraj@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Indian, B.Tech-Mech Engineering Holder having 13 years of experience in Oman specialized in Steel Fabrication looking suitable position.

Contact: Mobile : 95945230
Email : Arungopalakrishnan85@yahoo.com

ADMINISTRATION

Senior HR & administration professional with strong advisory experience, expert in Oman labour law, office management, business operations setup & administration. Indian male, valid Oman D/L, NOC available.

Contact: 94948676

MEDICAL

Pharmacist with 16 yrs exp. in retail & hospital pharmacy in Muscat & India. Previously registered with MOH, Oman with work License, NOC with D/L, currently in Muscat

Contact: 77336141
Email: confession.mercy@gmail.com

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Indian (M), 28, Accountant with overall exp. 3 yrs valid D/L. Contact: 78624277

Sri Lankan Accountant, reading CA. 3+ yrs of experience. Expertise in accounting, audit, bookkeeping, VAT, finalization. Contact: +968 76297279

Accountant available immediate joiner, Indian male, B.Com, 10+ yrs exp (4 yrs Oman) Expert in Tally & Accounts Contact: 91417133

Indian Male MBA, B.Com, with 5+yr experience in Facility management and accounting looking for suitable positions in finance and facility management.Can join short notice. Contact: 75034297

Indian Male MBA, Senior accountant, admin having 10 yrs experience. Contact : 95416322, Email: aabynarayan@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

MBA Finance & B com Computer with experience of 2yrs as an accountant in Muscat Oman, having Oman D/L. Presently in Oman. Contact: 93965857

Indian Female 5 yrs of experience in accounts, administration, and customer care looking for suitable job. Currently in Muscat. Contact: 75019077, 79718900 Email. Hmakwana995@gmail.com

Indian Male, Bcom, MBA finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs in accounts. Have valid Oman D/L. Contact: 97436925. Email: sasdsrk@gmail.com

Indian Male, M.com (finance) 10 years experience in Oman. Handling accounts up to finalization independently & Business development. Noc & D/L available Contact: 99859141

Indian Male, B.com, MBA finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs. Contact: 97436925. Email: sasdsrk@gmail.com”

ADMINISTRATION

Indian (M) 29 yrs, MBA graduate with 4 yrs experience in operations, stores management, office administration, yard management, accounts, finance and graphic designing. Looking for suitable job. Contact: 78439875

Sri Lankan Management Executive, 13 yrs operations and business development experience in distribution, manufacturing, service industries. Contact: 93297579

Indian male, MBA, with 2 yrs operations and team lead experience at Flipkart, seeking a suitable position in Muscat. Immediate joining. Contact: +968 9749 4435 | Email: iamtibinrony@gmail.com

Indian Female, M.Sc. (Computer Science), overall 13+ yrs of experience in different administrative as well as project roles looking for suitable placement. Contact: 79166904/97498882

Highly skilled accounting and administrative professional with diverse experience in technical and office administration roles Contact: 90473476. Email: kpsanjay202@gmail.com

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Architect, Interior Designer having more than 8+ yrs of experience with design and engineering consultants. Contact: 95759832, Email: ar.ahmedfaizal@gmail.com

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Driver with 25 yrs experience, PDO licence looking for job. Contact: 99116288

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Indian Female, completed MCA and also having experience in teaching, available in Oman on family visa, looking for a suitable job. Contact: +91 79090343/ +968 94117967, Email: induch-andran01@gmail.com

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Experienced Biomedical Engineers seeking opportunities in Oman. Presently in Oman & available for immediate joining. Email: asmathalipvi@gmail.com Contact: +968 72031225

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MANAGER

Indian, BE (Civil) PMP , Project Manager with 25 yrs of experience in the field of construction having valid D/L. Looking for a suitable job. Contact: 968 95899628. Email: prakashrathi7707@gmail.com

Accounting Manager, Indian (M), 43yrs, 18+ yrs in Oman, D/L & NOC. Contact: 76432203

Indian Male, MBA. 12 yrs of experience as (branch Manager & key accounts executive) looking for suitable position. Contact: 98132055

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Indian male 41 yrs MBA, B.com having 13 yrs experience in procurement UAE & Oman with valid UAE D/L,seeking suitable opportunities in Oman. Contact +971529546753

Procurement Engineer 19 yrs experience construction and trading. whatsapp: +96895839964

Indian Male 40 yrs Bcom MBA having 13 yrs experience in procurement UAE & Oman with valid UAE D/L,seeking suitable opportunities. Contact: +971529546753

SALES/MARKETING

Indian, MBA, 20yrs of experience in Sales(FMCG/ retail) with D/L seeks suitable placement. Contact: 95548480

Indian Male, 08 yrs experience having Oman D/L looking for suitable placement in Sales and Marketing. Contact: 94566786

Indian Male MMS (Master in Management Studies) with 2 yrs of experience in Data Entry and Sales , looking for suitable position. available to join immediately. Contact:: 91415250 Email: tambesalwan@gmail.com

UNDER CLOSE OBSERVATION

Bangladesh ex-PM Begum Khaleda Zia critically ill

DHAKA: Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was admitted to the capital's Evercare Hospital on November 23 with a lung infection. She is undergoing treatment at the hospital's Coronary Care Unit (CCU) under the supervision of local and foreign specialist doctors from the medical board, the local media reported.

The 80-year-old former Prime Minister, who is suffering from various ailments, is now under close observation by doctors. Quoting doctors, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam



Alamgir said that her physical condition is very critical.

Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Adviser of Bangladesh's interim government, expressed concern about the health condition of Khaleda Zia, the Chairperson of BNP.

On Friday night, the Chief Adviser sent Asif Nazrul, an adviser to the interim government, to Evercare Hospital in the capital to inquire about Khaleda Zia's physical condition.

Begum Khaleda Zia was last seen in public on November 21 when she went to the Senakun Community Center in Dhaka

Cantonment to attend a reception to mark Armed Forces Day. Sitting in a wheelchair, she held a brief meeting with Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus there. Mrs Zia seemed quite well that day.

Heart disease

Begum Khaleda has been suffering from various physical ailments including heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, liver cirrhosis, and kidney complications for a long time. She went to London on January 8 for advanced treatment.

After undergoing treatment at the London Clinic for 17 consecutive days, she received treatment

at her son Tarique Rahman's house on January 25 under the supervision of London Clinic specialist doctors Professor Patrick Kennedy and Professor Jennifer Cross.

The BNP Chairperson returned to Bangladesh on May 6 after receiving advanced treatment in the UK.

Begum Khaleda Zia served as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh from 1991 to 1996 and again from 2001 to 2006. She was the first female Prime Minister of Bangladesh. She is the widow of former President of Bangladesh and army commander Ziaur Rahman. -ANI

US halts visas, asylum reviews for Afghans

Officials described the decision as part of a broader response to Wednesday's shooting near the White House that left two National Guard soldiers critically injured



WASHINGTON, DC: The Trump administration on Friday intensified immigration restrictions, rolling out a series of heightened security measures following a State Department directive that temporarily halts visa issuance for all travellers holding Afghan passports.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced the decision in a post on the social media platform X, stating, "President Trump's State Department has paused visa issuance for ALL individuals travelling on Afghan passports."

He added, "The United States has no higher priority than protecting our nation and our people."

The announcement followed an earlier statement from the Department of State, which said, "The Department of State has IMMEDIATELY paused visa issuance for individuals traveling on Afghan passports," adding that "The Department is taking all necessary steps to protect U.S. national security and public safety."

Hours later, the administration expanded its security actions by ordering an immediate halt to all asylum rulings nationwide.

Officials described the decision as part of a broader response to Wednesday's shooting near the White House that left two National Guard soldiers critically injured.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Joseph Edlow confirmed that asylum officers have been directed to stop issuing decisions until enhanced vetting can be completed for every applicant.

"This pause will stay in place until we can ensure that every alien is properly vetted. The safety of the American people always comes first," he said in a statement posted on X.

The shooting, allegedly carried out by 29-year-old Rahmanullah Lakanwal, an Afghan national who entered the US in 2021, has prompted the administration to review previous immigration approvals.

Lakanwal, who had been granted asylum earlier this year, is accused of shooting Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, 20, who later died, and Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe, 24, who

remains in critical condition.

Following the incident, the government began reassessing asylum approvals issued under the Biden administration and launched a review of green card applications from nationals of 19 countries previously flagged under a presidential proclamation on security risks.

President Trump outlined further actions in a late-night post on Truth Social, saying the US would halt migration from poorer nations and revoke citizenship for individuals he believes threaten domestic stability.

He also said foreign nationals deemed security risks or "non-compatible with Western Civilization" would be deported.

Intensifying his message, Trump called for what he described as "REVERSE MIGRATION," arguing that millions of legally present immigrants were worsening social and economic pressures.

"Only REVERSE MIGRATION can fully cure this situation," he wrote, ending with a Thanksgiving note that excluded those he claimed "hate, steal, murder, and destroy everything that America stands for." -ANI

INDIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY

India, Russia hold meeting to discuss defence ties

NEW DELHI: India and Russia held an expert panel meeting in New Delhi from November 26 to 28 to discuss military and its technical cooperation.

The Defence Ministry informed that the meeting was co-chaired by Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) Amitabh Prasad and Deputy Chief of FSMTC (Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation) Yashin Sergey Borisovich.

Both sides reaffirmed the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia during the discussions.

"India-Russia Expert Panel Meeting was held in New Delhi from 26-28 Nov 2025, co-chaired by JS (International Cooperation) Shri Amitabh Prasad and Deputy Chief, FSMTC Mr Yashin Sergey Borisovich. The two sides discussed Military & Military Technical Cooperation and reaffirmed the Special & Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia," the Defence Ministry posted on X.



Meanwhile, a four-member delegation from the Russian Land Forces visited formations of the Indian Army from November 26 to 28 to strengthen defence cooperation and share expertise.

The Indian Army said that the visit focused on the exchange of knowledge in the field of "integrated safety and security of defence infrastructure."

"The visit aimed to facilitate expert exchange in the field of 'Integrated Safety and Security of Defence Infrastructure. The delegation's interactions reflected the enduring spirit of defence cooperation, innovation and strategic partnership, further strengthening the long-standing defence ties between India and Russia," the Army posted on X.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will pay a state visit to India from December 4-5 next month at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During the visit, Putin will attend the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit and hold talks with

PM Modi, according to an official statement by the Ministry of External Affairs on Friday.

The President of India will also receive Putin and host a banquet in his honour.

The visit will provide an opportunity for the leadership of India and Russia to review progress in bilateral relations, outline the vision for strengthening the 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership', and exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, the MEA statement said.

The upcoming visit will mark Putin's first to India since 2021. The two leaders last met in person on September 1 this year in Tianjin, China, on the sidelines of the SCO Summit.

Kremlin has described Putin's upcoming visit to India as an important moment for both nations. Russian state news agency TASS cited a Kremlin statement, "The visit is of great importance, providing an opportunity to comprehensively discuss the extensive agenda of Russian-Indian relations within the particularly privileged strategic partnership in the political, trade, economic, scientific, technological, cultural, and humanitarian spheres, as well as to consider topical international and regional issues."

"These issues will be at the heart of negotiations with the Indian delegation led by [Prime Minister] Narendra Modi," the

Kremlin said as per TASS.

Building on this announcement, the Ministry of External Affairs had yesterday said that preparations for the annual summit are already underway, with Putin's December arrival aligning with the state visit outlined by the MEA.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, responding to media queries during the weekly briefing, said the dates will be announced soon and noted that both nations are working to further strengthen bilateral ties.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Putin in Moscow last week ahead of the annual summit. Jaishankar had also conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's greetings during the meeting.

Following the discussions, Jaishankar wrote on 'X': "Honoured to call on President Putin of Russia in Moscow today. Conveyed greetings of Prime Minister @narendramodi. Apprised him of preparations underway for the upcoming Annual India-Russia Summit. Also discussed regional and global developments. Deeply value his perspectives and guidance on further advancement of our ties."

Earlier this month, the Kremlin also said Russia is "actively preparing" for President Vladimir Putin's visit to India, expected before the end of the year, according to state news agency TASS. -ANI

CYCLONE DITWAH

IAF airlifts 21 tonnes of relief material to Sri Lanka under Operation Sagar Bandhu

NEW DELHI: India has launched Operation Sagar Bandhu to assist Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah caused severe devastation, with the Indian Air Force (IAF) airlifting 21 tonnes of relief material, NDRF personnel and essential supplies to Colombo. The IAF shared details of the operation in a post on X as part of India's swift response to the crisis.

The IAF stated, "In the wake of the devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwah across Sri Lanka, India swiftly launched Operation Sagar Bandhu to bolster relief efforts," underscoring India's commitment to supporting neighbouring countries during natural disasters under its Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) framework.

To operationalise the mission, the IAF mobilised key air assets for rapid deployment. According to the post, "The Indian Air Force promptly deployed one C-130 and one IL-76 from Hindan Air Base on the night of 28/29 Nov 2025, airlifting 21 tonnes of relief material along with over 80 NDRF personnel and 8 Tonnes of equipment



to Colombo."

These aircraft transported essential supplies and specialised rescue teams, ensuring immediate on-ground support for affected communities.

The IAF further noted that "essential rations and critical supplies have been delivered to support affected communities," highlighting the urgency and scale

of the assistance.

This initial delivery laid the foundation for successive relief operations under the mission.

Continuing the momentum, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced on Saturday that another C-130J aircraft carrying nearly 12 tonnes of humanitarian aid had reached Colombo as part of the ongoing effort.

These air deliveries followed earlier consignments sent by sea, with the Indian Navy's aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and warship INS Udaigiri reaching Colombo on Friday to hand over relief material to Sri Lankan authorities.

Together, the naval and air operations reflect India's multi-pronged approach to supporting Sri Lanka during the crisis.

Amid the ongoing relief efforts, PM Narendra Modi conveyed condolences to the people of Sri Lanka in a post on X, describing the nation as India's "closest maritime neighbour."

He noted that India had swiftly dispatched relief supplies and HADR equipment, adding, "We stand ready to provide more aid and assistance as the situation evolves," reaffirming support under the Neighbourhood First policy and Vision MAHASAGAR.

These coordinated efforts come as Sri Lanka continues to grapple with severe flooding and landslides triggered by Cyclone Ditwah, which has become one of the country's most significant disasters in recent years. -ANI

SPARKED FIRES

Kyiv hit with missile and drone attacks



KYIV: In yet another massive overnight assault, Russian forces targeted civilians in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv with a deadly missile and drone attack that damaged buildings and sparked fires across the city.

The projectiles slammed residential apartment complexes, killing two people and injuring two dozen more according to Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, who posted images of the attack on X.

The full extent of damage is not yet clear, but the attack targeted several residential

neighborhoods.

This is the second time in days that Kyiv has been targeted.

Earlier this week, seven people were killed in attacks involving ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, hypersonic weapons and drones, in what was described by Ukraine's Energy Ministry as a "massive combined attack" on the country's energy infrastructure.

Foreign Minister Sybiha's post excoriated Russian President Vladimir Putin's brutal pursuit of his illegal war, as well as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's recent overtures to him. -JW



Carbon dioxide
from burning
fossil fuels
is causing
climate change.
From renewables
and green tech
to tackling
deforestation,
what will it take
to turn the tide
on emissions?

How can we reduce CO2?

Carbon dioxide (CO2) is vital to all life on Earth. Without it, plants wouldn't be able to grow and produce the oxygen we breathe.

Yet an excess of CO2 is posing a real threat to the livability of the planet. As a greenhouse gas it traps heat in the Earth's atmosphere and CO2 levels have increased dramatically since the Industrial Revolution, driven primarily by the burning of fossil fuels for energy and transportation.

This is leading to a steep rise in global temperatures, with ever more severe consequences, including storms, flooding, drought and days of extreme heat.

There is overwhelming consensus among scientists that reducing CO2 is critical to avoiding the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. But how do we actually achieve it?

What goals exist for CO2 reduction?

The COP30 summit in Belem marks a decade since the historic Paris Agreement, the world's first legally binding climate deal to keep global temperatures rising more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

CO2 reduction is central to this. It requires a 43% cut in emissions by 2030 compared to 2019 levels and

reaching net zero by 2050.

While this applies to all greenhouse gases — methane and nitrous oxide are also potent polluters — CO2 is the focus, as it is responsible for around 80% of temperature rise since 1990.

Despite these global aspirations, CO2 emissions hit a new high in 2024, which was recognized as the hottest year on record.

China, the US, India, the EU and Russia are the biggest polluters. The energy sector produces by far the most emissions, followed by agriculture and then industrial processes such as chemical and cement production.

While there has been some progress in reducing emissions — in the EU, for example, they have dropped 37% compared to 1990 levels — the world is still falling behind global targets. Recent research shows the biggest economies and polluters are not on track to meet the Paris Agreement.

Ditching fossil fuels is key

As the primary source of CO2 emissions, the world urgently needs to transition away from fossil fuels.

This requires reshaping how our societies function, from how we power economies, grow food and travel, to what we buy and how we dispose of it.

Some of the biggest cuts so far have been made in the energy sector, through expanding electrification,

improving efficiency and, crucially, moving toward renewables.

Renewables have made enormous strides with clean power sources, led by solar, accounting for 40% of global electricity generation last year. The International Energy Agency, an independent intergovernmental organization, predicts by 2030 renewable capacity will grow by 2.7 times and provide more than half of global electricity demand.

Other methods of reducing CO2 include the expansion of electric vehicles, shifts to a more plant-based diet, sustainable agricultural practices, and the use of heat pumps to warm homes.

How far can forests help?

Forests are vital to climate protection. They act as "carbon sinks," absorbing CO2 from the atmosphere through the process of photosynthesis and locking it down in trees, roots and soil.

Land-based ecosystems — which include forests, grassland and tundras — are estimated to absorb around 30% of carbon dioxide emissions each year.

The key role of planting and maintaining forests in climate protection was recognised in the Paris Agreement. This became more concrete at the 2021 climate conference in Glasgow, when countries representing 90% of the world's forests signed an agreement to halt and reverse defor-

estation and land degradation by 2030.

From Costa Rica and Pakistan, to the Great Green Wall initiative across Africa's Sahel region, many ambitious projects have set out to plant billions of trees. Yet tree planting projects have also been criticised for failing to match the species that are able to survive in specific local environments.

So far, countries are way off track to reach the 2030 target. In 2024 global forest loss hit record highs, largely due to a spike in fires. An estimated 17 of the 20 countries with the biggest primary forests that signed the agreement in Glasgow now have a higher loss than in 2021.

There are also concerns forests could shift from "carbon sinks" to "carbon sources." Trees can release CO2 when they are cleared, burned or degraded. In 2023 and 2024, extreme wildfires meant forests absorbed only a quarter of their normal annual CO2.

What technologies can remove CO2?

In addition to nature-based approaches, there is also a market for technological solutions.

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is a process that aims to prevent excess carbon dioxide from entering our atmosphere in the first place.

It works either by separating the CO2 from other gases before combustion, or once it is released by burning

fossil fuels in power plants or from places such as steel mills, refineries and cement plants.

Once captured, it is then compressed into a liquid and usually stored underground in places such as disused oil and gas reservoirs and abandoned coal mines.

The greenhouse gas can also be directly sucked from the atmosphere using filters and chemicals in a process known as direct air capture and storage, while another method captures carbon dioxide from plants burning biomass. Yet these technologies remain expensive and energy intensive.

The UN has recognised CCS as an important technology for reducing emissions in the long term, saying they will be "unavoidable" if the world wants to reach net-zero goals.

However, the technologies have also faced widespread criticism, with estimates suggesting they only capture 0.1% of global emissions. Critics argue the technology can be used by the fossil fuel industry as a cover to keep burning oil, gas and coal.

They say limiting the worst impacts of the climate crisis requires phasing out fossil fuels as fast as possible.

Under current climate policies, emissions are expected to peak this decade before falling, putting the world on track for 2.6 Celsius warming — or more — by the end of the century. **DW**

SPORTS

India seek redemption in ODI series after 2-0 Test drubbing by Proteas

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the spotlight as three-match series begins in Ranchi on Sunday

RANCHI: After losing the Test series 2-0 emphatically to Temba Bavuma's men, a depleted India side will aim to make amends while banking on their veteran one-format superstars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli in the 50-over leg of the series against South Africa, starting at the Jharkhand State Cricket Association International Stadium Complex in Ranchi on Sunday.

India will be without their regular ODI captain, Shubman Gill, and his deputy, Shreyas Iyer, in the three-match series, with KL Rahul taking over the reins in the series. It could pave the way for star southpaw Yashasvi Jaiswal's ODI debut, over two years on since his maiden India cap.

There will also be a toss-up between Ruturaj Gaikwad and Tilak Varma, although the former has produced higher and quick-



er scores in the recent A series against the visiting Proteas.

India's star pair of Rohit and Kohli will be back in action after their successful outing in Australia to set-up for a short audition that could well shape their 2027 World Cup fate.

Both now compete in just one international format, and with India scheduled to play only six ODIs in the next two months - three against the Proteas and three ver-

sus New Zealand at home in January - the stakes have rarely been higher for two of Indian cricket's modern-day greats.

The ODI format, though, is still the ideal sweet spot for India. India have been dominant in ODIs, winning the last Asia Cup and the last Champions Trophy, and losing only the final in the last World Cup.

India's opponents are nowhere near as dominant in ODIs in recent times but they will be riding

the high of having beaten India 2-0 in the Tests. This is a rare full tour as nowadays home teams prefer to split Tests and shorter formats to allegedly maximise the earnings. However, all-format tours have their own charm of one side trying to dominate the other team completely and the other looking for some redemption in the other formats.

Also, South Africa are closer to full strength now with the excep-

tion of Kagiso Rabada's injury-enforced absence. The return of Aiden Markram and Temba Bavuma should add heft to their batting, and Keshav Maharaj should provide them the spin control they missed in Pakistan.

These are just three ODIs and they will be forgotten quickly, what with more focus on T20Is right now, but they promise to be cracking contests while they last.

This is only the sixth ODI

Ranchi is hosting. There has been only one score of over 300, which was defended successfully, but chases of 270-280 haven't quite been cakewalks either.

The pitch generally is on the slower side; in the last ODI there, Washington Sundar opened the bowling for India. The weather will be perfect to play cricket in, but a lot will depend on dew. Without dew, batting first is not a bad shout in Ranchi. - Agencies

INDIA CAPTAIN

Gill recovering well: Morkel



RANCHI: Injured India captain Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer are well on the road to recovery, with India bowling coach Morne Morkel looking forward to both players rejoining the team soon.

Gill suffered a neck injury two weeks ago during the Kolkata Test, and Iyer has been missing since he lacerated his spleen on the tour to Australia last month. "I think the best is for the medical [team] to give that [update]," Morkel said in Ranchi on Friday. "I spoke to Shubman two days ago just to check in with him and he is recovering well. So, that is pleasing to hear."

"Shreyas has also started his rehab, which is great. So, we are looking forward to welcoming them back into the squad. The good thing is that they are healthy and they are starting their preparation

on their way back into the team."

India are under severe pressure, having relinquished their air of invincibility at home. They come into this ODI series having lost five of the last seven Tests. Morkel said the team has had time to reflect on what went wrong and insisted that a switch to the white-ball format will help the team refocus.

"Look, it's a change of colour by clothing and it's a change of ball which always brings a different energy," Morkel said. "But I feel you know the South African team, they have that momentum with them and a confident Proteas team is a dangerous team. It will be important to start well, for us to play good cricket over the next week or two, because they're here to win."

"Luckily, we have got some good experience ahead now in the team.



For us, it is now focus for the next two days. Give ourselves the best opportunity to prepare well and go out there and put the last couple of weeks behind us and really focus on playing solid cricket."

The good experience that Morkel mentioned comes from Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, who will play international cricket in India for the first time since they retired from Tests earlier this year. Their goal now appears to be making the 2027 ODI World Cup

"I feel that their bodies can do that. It is still a long way away. The World Cup, by all means," Morkel said. "I have played many games against them. I have had sleepless nights bowling to them. So, I know as a bowler what goes through your preparation playing against them. So, for me, definitely on board with that."

ASHES SERIES

'Calling England arrogant is a step too far', says skipper Stokes

BRISBANE: England skipper Ben Stokes said he can accept criticism of his England team but believes allegations of arrogance are a step "too far".

England have come under heavy scrutiny for the manner and response to their crushing defeat by Australia in the first Ashes Test.

The tourists threw away a dominant position to lose inside two days in Perth, then opted not to send any of the XI from the first Test to play in an England Lions match against the Prime Minister's XI in Canberra. Former Australia pace bowler Mitchell Johnson called England "arrogant" and "cocky Poms" who are at risk of "serious embarrassment".

Stokes, however, was keen to set the record straight in England's first official media engagement since the end of the Perth Test on Saturday. Prior to an additional training session at Allan Border Field on Saturday morning, England's Test captain ceded they must wear what comes their way, but stressed not all of it was valid.

"Look, you can call us rubbish, call us whatever you want," Stokes said. "We didn't have the Test match that we wanted to. We were



great in passages of that game... but I think arrogant might be a little bit too far. "But that's okay. We'll take the rough with the smooth. I'd rather words like 'rubbish', but 'arrogant', I'm not so sure about that."

The all-rounder admitted he accepts the debate around England's stance on the Canberra fixture, said his team need to "learn" from the first Test, and he understands the disappointment of supporters following the performance in Perth. England were not scheduled to play in Canberra, but the swift conclusion to the first Test raised the prospect of more time in the middle and experience with

only Mark Wood was not present for the optional session on Saturday as the fast bowler rested the left knee upon which he had surgery earlier this year.

The all-rounder admitted he accepts the debate around England's stance on the Canberra fixture, said his team need to "learn" from the first Test, and he understands the disappointment of supporters following the performance in Perth. England were not scheduled to play in Canberra, but the swift conclusion to the first Test raised the prospect of more time in the middle and experience with



the pink ball.

The tourists opted against sending the first-Test XI to the capital in the desire to keep the team together for reasons of morale. There was also a feeling a slow, low pitch in mild Canberra would not provide useful conditions in which to prepare for the heat of Brisbane and pace of the Gabba.

Former captain Michael Vaughan questioned England's decision, while Stokes' team received support from two other ex-England skippers, Michael Atherton and Alec Stewart. "I do understand it," said Stokes. "We have a pink-

ball match coming up in Brisbane, and we have an opportunity to play some pink-ball cricket.

"But there's obviously a lot more to it than just that. You take all the factors into consideration, the pros and cons, whatever it may be. We then discuss that and decide what we think is the best preparation.

"We have a few more days off than we planned after that Test. We had to go away and ask how we use these next few days wisely in order to be prepared for what it will be like in Brisbane."

England had given themselves an outstanding opportunity after

Travis Head's bombastic century ensured Australia achieved their target of 205 in 28.2 overs.

Conspicuous by his absence from England's first training session at Allan Border Field on Saturday ahead of Thursday's pink-ball Test, it appears Wood is being held back as the tourists seek to bounce back from going 1-0 down.

Provided there are no complications, Wood could be back in contention for the third Test in Adelaide, which begins in 18 days.

Australia unchanged

Australia will again be without Pat Cummins for the second Ashes Test in Brisbane as the captain continues to recover from a back injury. Fast bowler Cummins, who has not played since July, missed Australia's astonishing defeat of England in the first Test in Perth.

The 32-year-old bowled in the nets in Perth and again in Sydney between Tests and was expected to return for the day-nighter at the Gabba, beginning on Thursday. But Australia have named an unchanged squad, once again led by stand-in captain Steve Smith.

In naming the same 14 players, Australia are also without injured fast bowler Josh Hazlewood.

Oman make Junior World Cup hockey debut with a defeat



Switzerland won 4-0 as both teams made their first appearances on the global stage

CHENNAI: A landmark moment for Oman hockey came at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai, India, on Friday when the national team made their historic debut at the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025.

In a clash among debutants in a Pool B match, Switzerland claimed the honours with a comprehensive



4-0 victory over Oman.

The Europeans settled nerves late in the first quarter when Jonathan Baumbach scored with just 40 seconds remaining.

After Baumbach scored the game's opening goal, Mattia Ribaud converted two penalty corners in the 23rd and 58th minutes to keep Oman at bay.

In between, Leonard Kraxner too got on the board for the Swiss team in the 33rd minute.

For Oman, the lowest-ranked team in the group (40), it was a difficult introduction.

The side failed to convert any of its five penalty corners and struggled to penetrate the circle against the second-worst-ranked team in the pool.

Adding to its woes, Sanad Beit and Hazaa Al Balushi were stretchered off after picking up injuries in the final quarter.

"It's a crazy feeling. I can't de-

scribe it in words," said Baumbach about playing in front of a boisterous crowd. "I am very happy to be here and to play here. It's an amazing feeling for me. It's unbelievable (to have scored the first goal for Switzerland in a Junior World Cup)."

Hosts and fancied India trounced Chile 7-0 in the same pool match that followed after Oman's defeat.

The crowd saved its loudest roars for the last on the opening day, when India entered the pitch at the stadium in Chennai – the other host city of the tournament apart from Madurai, following a rousing opening ceremony.

Expected to romp home to a win in the opener, India made a statement with their big victory in Pool B, which was fashioned by brace each from attacking midfielder Rosan Kujur and striker Dilraj Singh. Ajeet Yadav, Anmol Ekka

and Rohit scored once each to make it a seven-star performance for the two-time winners, while Chile kept chasing the game for the entire 60 minutes.

"Great feeling for me and the team," said Rohit after India's win. "In the first quarter we played okay, but then we had good rhythm and finished well. We scored seven goals which gives players the confidence to maybe repeat it in the next match [against Oman]."

The first day was highlighted by a festival of goals at both the venues.

Belgium's attacking 12-1 victory over Namibia led the list of big wins on Day 1 that saw 16 of the 24 teams in action from Pool A, B, C and D.

Results: Germany 4 South Africa 0, Canada 3 Ireland 4, Argentina 4 Japan 1, Spain 8 Egypt 0, New Zealand 5 China 3, Belgium 12 Namibia 1. - Agencies



Gladbach hold Leipzig

BERLIN: Borussia Monchengladbach extended its unbeaten league run to four matches with a 0-0 draw against title-chasing RB Leipzig, showcasing defensive discipline and moments of resilience in a tightly contested Bundesliga encounter on Friday.

Gladbach attempted to dictate play early, but both sides soon settled into a physical midfield battle that allowed few clear openings.

Leipzig carved out the first notable chances through David Raum and Antonio Nusa, yet neither truly tested goalkeeper Moritz Nicolas. Gladbach's most promising moment of the first half came when Florian Neuhaus and Jens Castrop collided while attempting to finish from close range, encapsulating a half marked more by effort than incision.

The hosts thought they had broken the deadlock shortly after the restart. Rocco Reitz clipped a clever ball over the defense for Franck Honorat, who finished confidently, only for VAR to rule the goal out for a marginal offside.

Gladbach responded positively, generating pressure through quick counterattacks and well-delivered set pieces, with Kevin Diks heading narrowly over.

Leipzig gradually increased urgency, and Nicolas was called into action several times, denying Conrad Harder with sharp reflexes before producing a standout save from a tight angle.

A brief moment of drama followed when Shuto Machino went down in the box, but the initial penalty decision was overturned after video review showed Willi Orban's clean challenge. - xinhua

Neymar shines in Santos win



RIO DE JANEIRO: Neymar scored one goal and set up another as Santos eased relegation fears with a 3-0 home win over Sport Recife in Brazil's Serie A on Friday.

The hosts opened the scoring in the 25th minute when Neymar ran onto Guilherme's pass on the counterattack and cut inside before lashing a low drive that beat goalkeeper Gabriel Vasconcelos at his near post.

Sport midfielder Lucas Kal gifted Santos a second goal when he inadvertently pushed the ball into his own net after a scramble inside the six-yard box.

Joao Schmidt put the result beyond doubt with a glancing header after Neymar's delivery from a corner. "We've been facing a very difficult fight against relegation," Neymar told reporters after the match. "We didn't want this, but now it depends on us. We know that goal difference could be decisive and that made this [victory] even more important." - xinhua

Chelsea's Palmer declared fit to face leaders Arsenal

LONDON: Cole Palmer is fit to play for Chelsea against London rivals Arsenal in Sunday's Premier League game at Stamford Bridge.

The 23-year-old forward fractured his toe when stubbing it on a door last week and subsequently missed the wins over Burnley and Barcelona.

The England international has struggled with injury this season and featured only five times across all competitions.

"He is available to start," said Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca. "Everyone is happy, the teammates are happy, we are all happy and the most important thing is Cole is happy because a footballer wants to play games and make the sessions every day."

"He is our best player, we are happy he is back. We need to give him time to be 100% fit. He has done fantastic in the past and no doubt he is going to do very good for this club in the future."

Last week Maresca suggested that this Sunday's game might come too soon for Palmer.

His absence would have been a major blow for the Blues who are second behind the Gunners and will close the gap at the top to three points with a win.



Palmer last featured in a 2-1 defeat at Manchester United on 20 September, with Chelsea playing 13 games since across all competitions since then, winning 10, losing two and drawing the other.

He joined from Manchester City for an initial £40m in September 2023 and has topped Chelsea's scoring charts in each of the past two Premier League campaigns - scoring 22 goals in his debut season and adding a fur-

ther 15 last term.

Summer signing Estevao Wilian has shone in Palmer's absence - with five goals across all competitions - and Maresca suggested the pair could play together.

"[It] depends on the game plan," Maresca said.

"For sure they are exciting. Fans are excited. We are also excited. We always need a balance between the two." - Agencies

FORMULA ONE

Hamilton: Comments after Las Vegas Grand Prix caused by frustration

DOHA: Ferrari driver Lewis Hamilton said on Friday that comments he made after the Las Vegas Grand Prix of "not looking forward to" next season were caused by frustration.

The Briton qualified last in Las Vegas and finished 10th, the latest in a series of difficult weekends in his maiden season with the Italian team.

But Hamilton, who has made a number of negative comments about his own performances and level of enjoyment this season, said: "That's just in the heat of frustration."

"Often there's a lot of frustration at the end of races when they haven't gone well. So, no, I'm excit-

ed to see what the team build next year and continue to build on with them."

Asked whether he would still have signed for Ferrari if he had known how difficult this season would be, Hamilton said: "I don't regret the decision I made joining the team. I know it takes time to build and grow within an organisation, and I expected that, so yes."

Hamilton joined Ferrari in the hope the team could take him to a record-breaking eighth drivers' title, but his first season has been an anti-climax.

The 40-year-old is hoping for a more competitive car from Ferrari next season, and is happy to see the back of the current technical rules,



which he feels do not gel with his driving style.

F1 is introducing new chassis and engine rules next season.

The engines will have a much greater proportion of their total power output created by the hybrid part of the power unit, while

the cars are returning to an aerodynamic philosophy more like those with which Hamilton had so much success from 2007-21.

But he said Ferrari had "a lot of work to do" over the winter to improve their operations at the track.

"We'll analyse the season and there's lots of improvements we need to make collectively," he said, "but no-one's under any illusion in the team that we will have to play our part and I believe that we can."

"So I'm hoping we implement and make those changes along with hopefully a better package next year."

And he said he was "not concerned" that he had been outperformed by team-mate Charles

Leclerc this season. "I've just been focusing on my side during this period," Hamilton said.

"Obviously, Charles has done a great job. He's been here for seven years. He's got a team around him that he's worked with for many years. So it's a well-oiled machine."

"On my side, it's a new group of people. For me, it's a new environment that I'm still getting used to working with."

"Then I had a new, another new member halfway through the year. So we're working as hard as we can, but getting that to work as well as someone that's had it for several years is not, you don't just do it like that. It takes a bit of time." - Agencies

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat partners with Oman Airport to implement real-time host-to-host payment integration

Through this collaboration, Oman Airport will be able to initiate and manage payments directly from its enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, seamlessly connected to the bank’s platform

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services in the Sultanate of Oman, continues to reinforce its role as a driving force in digital innovation and technological transformation within the banking sector. By consistently investing in smart technologies, artificial intelligence, and automation, the Bank is elevating service quality, simplifying operations, and ensuring a seamless and comprehensive banking experience for customers across all channels.

The Bank continues to advance its innovation agenda by adopting an integrated approach that supports the development of next-generation financial solutions. The Bank consistently explores emerging technologies and global best practices with ongoing investments in its digital infrastructure and enhanced data-driven capabilities, aiming to respond to the rapidly evolving financial landscape and meet customer expectations through creative, future-focused solutions.

Underscoring its leadership in delivering innovative corporate banking solutions, Bank Muscat, has announced a strategic partnership with Oman Airport to implement a state-of-the-art Host-to-Host (H2H) payment integration using the Bank’s API Banking services. The agreement was signed by Ahmed bin Said Al Amry, Chief Executive Officer, Oman Airport and Ahmed Faqir Al Bulushi Deputy



CEO—Banking at Bank Muscat.

Through this collaboration, Oman Airport will be able to initiate and manage payments directly from its enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, seamlessly connected to the Bank’s platform. This direct integration eliminates the need for manual file uploads and enables secure, automated, and real-time payment processing; enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and operational control.

The new solution establishes a secure communication channel between the Bank’s core payment systems and Oman Airport’s internal financial management platform. By leveraging H2H integration through API banking, the system automates payment initiation and reconciliation processes, ensures real-time updates on payment status, and provides instant visibility on cash flow and account balances. The result is a more agile and transparent financial operation that strengthens governance,

reduces manual intervention, and supports faster decision-making.

Oman Airports continues to strengthen its position as one of the nation’s leading institutions in adopting advanced digital solutions, through ongoing investments in enhancing its technical systems and improving the efficiency of its operational processes. This collaboration with Bank Muscat builds on the company’s efforts to automate its operations and reinforce financial governance, in line with its vision to develop an intelligent ecosystem, enhance technological readiness, and achieve the highest levels of efficiency and transparency in managing its resources.

It is also another step forward in Oman’s journey toward financial digitalization. For Oman Airport, the implementation of this advanced payment solution will significantly enhance operational control, streamline approval workflows, and reinforce data security

and compliance in alignment with regulatory standards.

Commenting on the collaboration, Ahmed Faqir Al Bulushi Deputy CEO—Banking, Bank Muscat, said: “We are delighted to announce this partnership with Oman Airports and integrate our payment ecosystem directly with Oman Airport’s ERP through our API Banking services. We are redefining the way corporate payments are managed. This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to helping businesses in Oman achieve greater efficiency, security, and transparency in their financial operations.”

From Oman Airport’s side, Ahmed bin Said Al Amry, Chief Executive Officer, Oman Airport, stated: “This partnership with Bank Muscat represents a significant milestone in our digital transformation journey. The automation and real-time connectivity offered by the Bank’s API platform will enhance our ability to manage cash flow, improve accuracy, and strengthen

financial control—allowing us to focus on supporting Oman’s aviation growth and strategic vision.”

This collaboration builds on Bank Muscat’s track record of working closely with leading organizations across various sectors to provide tailored digital banking solutions. It further reinforces the Bank’s position as a trusted partner in enabling Oman’s corporate sector to embrace innovation and efficiency through cutting-edge financial technology.

This collaboration with Oman Airport builds upon Bank Muscat’s growing portfolio of strategic partnerships that are transforming the corporate banking landscape in Oman. The Bank has previously worked with key institutions such as Omantel, Muscat Finance, and Taaqeer Finance, enabling them to integrate advanced Host-to-Host and API-based solutions that streamline payment operations, enhance liquidity management, and strengthen financial governance. Through

PREMIUM PROTECTION

bare. – The homegrown device protection brand unveils a market-first free ‘trade-in magic’ activation

MUSCAT: bare., a homegrown brand built for the region, continues to strengthen its presence in the Sultanate of Oman.

With over 13 years of expertise, bare. has become one of Oman’s most trusted names in premium full-body device protection — safeguarding more than 1.5 million devices through its growing network of locations in Oman, UAE & Qatar.

The brand is known for its state-of-the-art cutting technology, supporting 5,000+ devices, and ensuring flawless, precise installations. Paired with its Lifetime Free Replacement program and 10,000+ Five-Star Google reviews, bare. stands today as a leading and reliable device protection solution for customers across Oman.

As a company with deep roots in the region, bare. continues to expand in the Sultanate with one clear priority: delivering premium materials, expert service, and a transparent, customer-first protection experience tailored for Oman’s consumers.

bare. introduces “Trade-In Magic” in Oman

To celebrate its strengthened presence in the Sultanate, bare. is rolling out “Trade-In Magic” — a first-of-its-kind activation in Oman,



exclusively at Mall of Oman from 20 to 29 November 2025.

During this activation:

- Customers can exchange any existing screen protector — any brand, any condition
- Receive a free bare. Clear screen protector via a redeemable voucher
- Enjoy exclusive giveaways available only during the event

Redeem vouchers at any bare. direct store in Oman until 05 December 2025 for professional installation

This initiative is designed to give Omani customers a seamless upgrade experience, reinforcing bare.’s commitment to accessibility, value, and community engagement within the Sultanate.

VIBRANT CULTURAL GATHERING

Indian Social Club hosts Rhythm Champs competition

MUSCAT: The Indian Social Club Oman hosted its much-anticipated Rhythm Champs competition on 21 November at CBFS Bowsher drawing an enthusiastic crowd and showcasing exceptional talent from dancers across the Sultanate. The event witnessed participation from children, youth, and adults, making it one of the most vibrant cultural gatherings of the season.

The evening began with a brief inaugural ceremony by Indian Social Club Executive Members, where club officials highlighted the importance of cultural activities in promoting unity and creativity within the community. A panel of distinguished judges—comprising renowned dance instructors and cultural ambassadors—evaluated participants on choreography, expression, stage presence, and originality.

Performers captivated the audience with a wide spectrum of dance styles, including Bollywood, contemporary, hip-hop, and thematic fusion routines. The energy, costumes, and innovative concepts presented by the contestants added to the visual appeal of the show.

Parents, members, and guests applauded the participants throughout the event, praising the platform for encouraging young talent. This sort of provides our community an opportunity to celebrate art and diversity,” said one of the organizers.

The competition concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where winners in various categories were honored with trophies and certificates.

The evening was graced by G.V. Srinivas, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman.

In the closing ceremony, Suhail Khan, Vice chairman addressed the gathering and the Cultural Secretary S.D. T. Prasad expressed gratitude to volunteers,



choreographers, and sponsors for their support in making the event a resounding success.

Amani TVR Group was the presenter and supported by Seapearls and Mazoon Dairy.

With its growing popularity, Rhythm champs continue to strengthen cultural ties while inspiring budding performers across Muscat.

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Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid from 20th October till 19th December 2025 on all models purchased through the CHANGAN Showroom Retail Offer. Whichever is earlier. Periodic Maintenance Service only. Offer includes only 10,000 kms service intervals. The periodic maintenance service will be between 2 years / 35,000 kms to 3 years / 55,000kms and varies from model to model. For 1st year, Oman & UAE only. For 1st year only. Window Tinting excluding Alsvin. *Super Warranty - 6 Years / 250,000 Kms - Applicable Alsvin, EADO Plus, CS35Plus, CS75Plus 4WD & CS95 4WD only. The above offers are applicable for CS95 Royal variant only. Images shown are for illustrative purposes only. Specifications may vary as per the model variant. To know more, please visit the CHANGAN Showroom.

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