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Dhofar's Khareef fog could emerge as future water source as Oman studies harvesting potential

Speaking on Al Sawt Podcast, the Arabic platform of The Arabian Stories, Al Shaimaa Al Siyabi said researchers are studying whether Dhofar's Khareef fog could be harnessed as a sustainable water source for the future.

By Thikra Al Salti

Oman is studying whether the dense fog that blankets Dhofar's mountains during the annual Khareef season could be developed into an unconventional source of water, with researchers building a long-term database to assess its harvesting potential.



TAS SPECIAL REPORT

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Oman, GCC states discuss stronger public fund oversight

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Oman, represented by the State Financial and Administrative Audit Institution, participated in the 23rd meeting of the heads of financial and accounting audit institutions and offices of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, held in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Oman's School Education Law prohibits students from violating public order and morals

The law also prohibits students from using social media, news outlets or any other means to engage in blackmail, defamation, spreading rumours or causing harm to society or members of the school community, including students and staff.



Indian tourists to get visa-free entry to Thailand from September 15

Indian passport holders travelling to Thailand for tourism will be eligible for visa-free entry for stays of up to 30 days from September 15, 2026, the Embassy of India in Bangkok said in an advisory.

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The visa exemption follows a notification by the Ministry of Interior of the Kingdom of Thailand and applies to Indian ordinary passport holders entering Thailand for tourism purposes.

Despite the visa exemption, travellers must meet Thailand's entry requirements. The Embassy advised visitors to carry a passport with at least six months' validity from the date of arrival, confirmed return tickets, hotel bookings and a clear travel itinerary.

Travellers must also complete the Thailand Digital Arrival Card (TDAC) within 72 hours before arrival. The card can be completed through the Thai authorities' online portal: .



Oman-India Business Forum focuses on trade, investment and CEPA opportunities

The Oman-India Business Forum in Muscat focused on strengthening economic and trade ties between Oman and India, with discussions highlighting quality investments and opportunities arising from the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

Organised by the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the forum brought attention to avenues for expanding bilateral business

cooperation and deepening commercial partnerships between the two countries.



Oman targets global markets with higher-quality dates

The Ministry of Agricultural Wealth, Fisheries and Water Resources is implementing a series of programmes and initiatives aimed at improving the quality of date production and maximising the economic return from the crop.

The initiatives include applied research into post-harvest practices, studies on date preservation and drying techniques, and the transfer of modern methods to farmers through training and agricultural guidance programmes.

The ministry said greater adoption of modern technology could help reduce post-harvest losses, improve food quality and safety, and strengthen the competitiveness of Omani dates, while supporting the Sultanate's broader objectives of enhancing food security and developing agriculture-based food industries.

Oman, US discuss stronger cooperation amid regional developments



Senior officials from Oman and the United States held talks in Muscat on Wednesday, reviewing bilateral relations and exploring ways to strengthen cooperation and coordination on issues of mutual interest.

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His Excellency Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs, met His Excellency Jonathan Burke, Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes,

on Wednesday morning. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the United States and exchanged views on ways to further enhance bilateral cooperation and coordination.

New regulations planned to tackle dangerous abandoned wells in Oman

Oman’s Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources has said proposals are being developed to strengthen regulations governing abandoned and uncovered wells.

The Ministry, responding to discussions surrounding a proposal to fill abandoned pits and wells that pose safety risks, said the Directorate General of Agricultural Wealth and Water Resources in Al Dhahirah Governorate had previously studied the issue and submitted a number of recommendations to the Al Dhahirah Municipal Council.



Oman launches platform to digitally train lawyers

The Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs has signed an agreement with Omantel to develop “Itqan,” an integrated digital platform aimed at modernising the training and qualification of lawyers and legal consultants in the Sultanate of Oman. The initiative seeks to improve professional efficiency, standardise training and assessment, and enhance the quality of legal services across the country. The agreement was signed on

behalf of the Ministry by His Excellency Dr. Yahya bin Nasser Al-Khasibi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, while Omantel was represented by Engineer Sami bin Ahmed Al-Ghasani. The Itqan platform is designed to move legal training into a modern and flexible digital environment, allowing training programmes and courses to be delivered efficiently to beneficiaries across Oman’s governorates.

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Dhofar's Khareef fog could emerge as future water source as Oman studies harvesting potential

Al Shaimaa Al Siyabi, Project Engineer at the Artificial Rain Enhancement Center at Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, said a two-year research project is collecting ground, weather, satellite and geographical data to determine how much water could potentially be extracted from fog across Dhofar Governorate. Speaking on Al Sawt Podcast, the Arabic platform of The Arabian Stories, Al Siyabi said the concept

of harvesting fog was not new to Dhofar, with traditional practices dating back generations. According to accounts shared with the research team, communities in Dhofar historically built large structures and dug circular pits around them to help capture and condense moisture from fog. The collected water accumulated around trees and provided water that could be used by animals in mountainous areas.

ABM International School celebrates over a decade of National Academic Excellence

The ceremony brought together distinguished guests, members of the Board of Directors, educators, parents and the wider school community to honor students whose dedication, perseverance and academic excellence continue to set a national benchmark.



Ahmad Bin Majid (ABM) International School celebrated the outstanding achievements of its students at its 2026 General Education Diploma and Cambridge IGCSE Recognition Ceremony, marking a historic milestone as the school celebrates its tenth consecutive year of achieving the nation's top General Education Diploma results.

The ceremony brought together distinguished guests, members of the Board of Directors, educators, parents and the wider school community to honor students whose dedication, perseverance and academic excellence continue to set a national benchmark.

The boys' ceremony was inaugurated by His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Mansour bin Talib Al Hinai, Chairman of the Authority for Public Services Regulation, while the girls' ceremony was graced by Honourable Dr. Badriya bint Ibrahim Al Shehi, Former Deputy Chairperson – State Council (2019-2023). All of the chief guests are parents of students in ABM International School

Makkah Group Chairman Mohammed Kunhi wins 'Excellence in Entrepreneurship' Award at fifth TAS Oman Business Awards

The Makkah Group Founder and Chairman was recognised for a remarkable entrepreneurial journey spanning more than three decades, growing from humble beginnings in Oman to building a retail business with 41 outlets across three countries.

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Mohammed Kunhi, Founder and Chairman of Makkah Group, has been honoured with the 'Excellence in Entrepreneurship' Award at the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards, recognising a business journey that began from humble beginnings in Oman and grew into a retail enterprise spanning three countries.



Mitsubishi wins 'Best Car Dealership' Award at fifth TAS Oman Business Awards

The recognition celebrates Mitsubishi's strong presence in Oman's automotive market and its commitment to customer experience, sales and after-sales service.



Mitsubishi has been named 'Best Car Dealership' at the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards, recognising the brand's strong presence in Oman's automotive sector and its continued focus on customer service and ownership experience.

The award was presented during the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards ceremony at IntercityHotel Muscat, which brought together leading businesses, entrepreneurs, executives and achievers from across the Sultanate.

Mitsubishi has maintained a long-standing presence in Oman, offering a portfolio of vehicles catering to different segments of the market, supported by sales, servicing and after-sales operations.

The Best Car Dealership award recognises excellence across the automotive retail experience, including customer engagement, accessibility, service standards and long-term support for vehicle owners.

Taageer Finance wins 'Excellence in Digital Transformation' Award at fifth TAS Oman Business Awards

The recognition highlights Taageer Finance's efforts to embrace technology, strengthen digital services and enhance customer experience across its financial solutions.

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Taageer Finance has won the 'Excellence in Digital Transformation – Finance' award at the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards, recognising the company's efforts to advance digitalisation and deliver more accessible and customer-focused financial services in Oman.

The award was presented during the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards ceremony at IntercityHotel Muscat, which brought together prominent companies, entrepreneurs and business leaders from across the Sultanate.



DEEPAL wins 'New Energy Vehicle Brand of the Year' at fifth TAS Oman Business Awards

The recognition celebrates DEEPAL's growing presence in Oman and its contribution to the shift towards intelligent and new-energy mobility.

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DEEPAL has been named 'New Energy Vehicle Brand of the Year' at the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards, recognising the automotive brand's growing presence in Oman's evolving new-energy vehicle market.

The award was presented during the TAS Oman Business Awards ceremony at IntercityHotel Muscat, which brought together leading companies, entrepreneurs, executives and achievers from across the Sultanate.



Al Ariq Equipment wins 'Excellence in Equipment & Engineering Solutions' at fifth TAS Oman Business Awards

The 100% Omani company was recognised for more than two decades of delivering specialised equipment, engineering solutions and after-sales support across key sectors in the Sultanate.



Al Ariq Equipment LLC has won the 'Excellence in Equipment & Engineering Solutions' award at the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards, recognising its contribution to Oman's equipment and engineering sector and its focus on reliable technology, technical expertise and after-sales support.

Established in 2003 as a 100% Omani company, Al Ariq has grown into a diversified equipment and solutions provider serving sectors including agriculture, cleaning, waste management, hygiene, golf, engineering, material handling and power-related applications.

The company's portfolio includes agricultural and garden machinery, cleaning equipment, road sweepers, waste-handling systems, specialised utility vehicles, access platforms, compactors, pest-control equipment and firefighting solutions.

Technical failure disrupts 1,100 flights across UK



Major system failure disrupts airports nationwide as thousands of passengers face cancellations and lengthy delays.

More than 1,000 flights to and from airports across the United Kingdom were cancelled after a major technical failure hit the country’s air traffic control system, triggering widespread disruption at

some of Britain’s busiest airports. The fault affected the flight processing system operated by National Air Traffic Services (NATS), disrupting departures and arrivals across the country

on Tuesday. NATS later said the technical issue had been fixed and operations had returned to normal, although clearing the backlog was taking longer than initially hoped.

Nepal flash floods: India assures support in ground rescue and relief as 275 nationals remain missing

India has delivered 95 tonnes of emergency relief materials on board seven aircraft to support Nepal during its ongoing flash flood catastrophe, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Tuesday, expressing deep solidarity and sympathy with the people and government of the neighbouring country.



Several vessels disabled in northern Gulf and Gulf of Oman, UKMTO reports



The UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) has reported that several merchant vessels have been disabled following attacks linked to ongoing military activity in the Gulf region. In an advisory, UKMTO said it had received reports involving “several merchant vessels” in the northern Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

US halts Cognizant's green-card filings amid Trump's visa fraud crackdown

This turn of events unfolds amid heightened regulatory examination across the United States regarding corporate reliance on foreign-worker visa and employment-based immigration systems.

The United States Department of Labour has frozen permanent labour certification submissions for Cognizant, representing the foundational stage through which enterprises sponsor overseas personnel for permanent residency, as the Trump administration steps up enforcement against alleged visa malpractices. A Labour Department official posted “Handcuffs await” on social media while releasing details of the measure, which links back to a country-wide inquiry launched in July.





Ballon d'Or 2026: Messi, Kane, Mbappé and Yamal lead star-studded race

Football's biggest individual prize heads to London on October 26, with 30 stars in contention for the 2026 crown.

Harry Kane, Kylian Mbappé and Lamine Yamal headline the 30-man shortlist for the 2026

Ballon d'Or, while eight-time winner Lionel Messi has also earned a place among the nominees following another

remarkable year for club and country.

Shelton sends defending champion Alcaraz out of US Open

Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz crashed out of the US Open after American Ben Shelton pulled off a stunning five-set victory in a marathon quarter-final that lasted four hours and 28 minutes. World No. 3 Alcaraz made the stronger start at Arthur Ashe Stadium, taking a tightly contested opening set 7-6 (7-5).



2026 Asian Games athletes evacuated as record rain pounds Japan



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Hundreds of athletes and staff preparing for the Asian Games in Japan were temporarily evacuated from their accommodation after record rainfall battered host city Nagoya, causing flooding and leaks at several competition

venues. Nagoya recorded around 104.5mm of rain in just one hour on Tuesday, the highest one-hour rainfall ever observed in the city, prompting authorities to issue evacuation orders for parts of the area.

Messi closes in on takeover of Spanish club Eldense

Fresh from announcing his retirement from international football, Lionel Messi is reportedly close to acquiring Spanish second-tier club CD Eldense.

Lionel Messi has reached an agreement in principle to buy Spanish second-division club CD Eldense, with an official announcement expected in the coming days, according to reports in Spain.

Under the proposed deal, Messi would acquire all the shares currently held by Colombian investment group TH Soluciones Group S.A.S., which took control of Eldense in October 2025.



