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Oman invests RO 20 million to develop professional colleges by 2030

Ministry of Labour says new investment will strengthen vocational training, professional accreditation and workforce readiness.

Oman has allocated around RO 20 million for a 2026–2030 plan to develop the professional colleges system, as the Ministry of Labour steps up efforts to strengthen vocational education and prepare national talent for the changing needs of the labour market.

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Oman plans to recruit 10,000 workers from Bangladesh, minister says

Oman is looking to recruit 10,000 workers from Bangladesh, with 5,000 positions earmarked for agriculture and another 5,000 for fisheries, as the two countries work to strengthen cooperation on labour.

Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs



Shama Obaed Islam said an agreement covering the proposed recruitment has been signed between the two countries.

The Arabian Stories announces second Banking & Technology Summit for December 5

The Arabian Stories (TAS) has announced the second edition of the Banking & Technology Summit (BTS), which will take place on December 5, 2026, bringing together leaders from the banking, financial services and technology sectors to discuss the rapidly evolving future of the industry.

Building on the inaugural edition, Banking & Technology Summit 2026 will be held

under the theme “Redefining Banking in the AI Era”, placing artificial intelligence and its growing influence on the financial sector at the centre of this year’s conversations.



Oman rescues 23 crew members from oil tanker after fire off Musandam Governorate

Royal Navy of Oman vessel evacuates 23 crew members from EL GAIA after fire broke out in engine room; search continues for two missing seafarers.

Oman has rescued 23 crew members from an oil tanker after a fire broke out aboard the vessel in the Arabian Sea, the Maritime Security Centre said on Tuesday.

The tanker, identified as EL GAIA, was being monitored by Oman’s Maritime Security Centre in coordination with the relevant authorities as it was towed towards a port in the Sultanate.

The vessel, which is sailing under the flag of the Republic of Panama, suffered a fire in its engine room following what the centre described as an earlier targeting incident.



he tanker was located about 103 nautical miles northeast of Musandam Governorate when the response operation was carried out.

A Royal Navy of Oman

vessel evacuated 23 members of the tanker’s crew and provided them with necessary medical care in coordination with the competent health authorities.



Oman's TRA launches AI-powered telecom coverage request platform

The new service, introduced as part of the TRA’s Quality System, is designed to streamline the handling of coverage-related requests, improve planning and support data-driven decision-making.

The platform provides a standardised process for submitting requests and facilitates their electronic transfer between governorates and the TRA. It also allows submitted requests to be compared with previous and ongoing applications in the same or nearby areas, helping identify duplication or similar requests and determine whether existing or planned telecommunications projects cover the location.

Khoula Hospital introduces first-of-its-kind technology in Oman for breast cancer surgery

The services, launched through the hospital’s General Surgery Department and Breast Surgery Unit, include the use of the Sentimag system by Endomag to locate non-palpable breast tumours and sentinel lymph nodes in the armpit.

The hospital has also introduced an integrated post-operative support service providing breast prostheses, post-operative bras and other products designed to assist patients during recovery.



VA Group secures Muttrah waterfront rights for major 18.5-hectare development in Muscat



The development, being undertaken in partnership with Omran Group, will make VA Group the first international developer to deliver a phase of the master-

plan, marking a significant step in the ongoing transformation of one of Oman’s most prominent waterfront districts.

Fanja kiosk owners offered alternative sites amid parking concerns, Oman's Municipality issues notice

Al Dakhiliyah Municipality says kiosk owners are being offered alternative locations as part of efforts to address parking, pedestrian and commercial concerns.

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Al Dakhiliyah Municipality has clarified that notices issued to a number of kiosk owners in Fanja, Wilayat of Bidbid, are part of a wider move to regulate the use of public spaces and parking areas, rather than an immediate closure of their businesses.

The clarification follows recent discussions on social media

regarding notices asking several kiosks in the area to vacate their existing locations.

According to the municipality, the decision was taken after reviewing the situation at the site and receiving complaints over the impact of the kiosks' current locations on public parking spaces, pedestrian movement and neighbouring commercial activities.



Suwaiq meat shops face action after over 600 meat skewers seized by Oman's authorities

North Al Batinah Municipality has seized 650 skewers of meat deemed unfit for human consumption during an evening inspection campaign targeting meat roasting shops in Suwaiq.

The inspection drive also uncovered several violations related to the proper preservation and storage of meat, the municipality said.

Officials confiscated the unsafe food products and subsequently destroyed them in accordance with health and safety procedures.

Oman sees rise in patients sent abroad for treatment, India and Turkey among top destinations

India was the leading destination for Omani patients sent abroad for treatment at the expense of the Ministry of Health in 2025, accounting for 19.6 percent of cases, according to ministry statistics released in September 2026.

Around 1,900 Omani patients were referred overseas for medical treatment during 2025, with 21 percent of those cases funded by the Ministry of Health.



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Oman invests RO 20 million to develop professional colleges by 2030

The Ministry said the investment reflects a broader push to improve the institutional and training capabilities of professional colleges, raise their efficiency and align their programmes more closely with the requirements of economic and professional sectors.

During the first half of 2026, professional colleges implemented 71 training programmes and courses, benefiting 1,062 people. The colleges also signed five cooperation programmes with relevant entities and adopted six institutional policies

aimed at improving the educational and training environment, strengthening partnerships and raising the quality of training programmes.

The Ministry said its human resources development work during the period covered job organisation and classification, professional training and accreditation, development of professional colleges, administrative services, quality assurance, change management and the development of private training institutions.

HILIA wins 'Best Omani Jewellery Brand of the Year' at fifth TAS Oman Business Awards

Founded in 2017 on a family jewellery-making legacy dating back to the late 1970s, HILIA was recognised for transforming Oman's rich heritage and craftsmanship into contemporary jewellery.



HILIA, the homegrown Omani luxury jewellery brand, has been named 'Best Omani Jewellery Brand of the Year' at the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards, recognising its craftsmanship, distinctive design philosophy and commitment to preserving Omani heritage through contemporary jewellery.

The award marks another milestone for a brand whose roots stretch back several decades. According to HILIA, the Al-Tiywani family's journey in silver jewellery craftsmanship began in the historic city of Nizwa in the late 1970s, when Nasser Al-Tiywani laid the foundations of a craft that would subsequently pass through generations of the family.

His son Saif continued the family tradition from the early 1990s, combining traditional craftsmanship with a more contemporary approach.

Omani brand Saaf Fashion House wins 'Lifestyle Brand of the Year' at fifth TAS Oman Business Awards

Founded in 2010, Saaf was recognised for building a distinctive Omani lifestyle brand that brings together heritage, contemporary fashion, fragrances and traditional craftsmanship.

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Omani brand Saaf Fashion House has been named 'Lifestyle Brand of the Year' at the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards, recognising its journey in building a contemporary lifestyle brand deeply rooted in the Sultanate's heritage and cultural identity.

Founded in 2010 and entering the Omani market in 2011, Saaf takes its name from the Arabic word referring to the delicate leaf of the palm tree.



Four new projects up for investment in Oman's Sur Industrial City

Private hospital, training centre, quarry operations and residential complex among projects offered to investors.

The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) has announced four new investment opportunities in Sur Industrial City, as part of efforts to attract high-quality projects and strengthen Oman's industrial, service and logistics ecosystem.

The opportunities cover the establishment and operation of a private hospital, a specialised training centre, the operation and management of a quarry for fill materials, and the establishment, operation and management of an integrated residential



complex.

Eng. Nasser bin Hamoud Al Mabsali, Director General of Sur Industrial City, said the offerings form part of Madayn's strategic direction

to create a more supportive and integrated business environment while enhancing the quality of services available within its industrial cities.

The four opportunities have been listed under opportunity numbers 1/2026, 2/2026, 3/2026 and 4/2026.

Ships stall at Hormuz as regional attacks push oil prices higher

Shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has fallen sharply as attacks across the Middle East intensify, raising fresh concerns over global energy supplies and pushing crude prices higher.



The number of commercial vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz continued to decline on Monday as escalating regional attacks disrupted one of the world's most important energy shipping routes.

Preliminary data from shipping analytics firm Kpler showed that just four commodity vessels transited the strait on Monday, down from 10 vessels a day earlier.

Of the four vessels, two dry bulk carriers exited the waterway, while two oil tankers entered the strait in ballast mode.

The decline marks a dramatic fall from normal traffic levels. Before the Iran war began on February 28, the Strait of Hormuz typically handled around 125 large commercial vessels a day, including oil tankers, gas carriers, bulk vessels and container ships.

SpiceJet Delhi-Dubai flights delayed over 24 hours, passengers protest



Passengers travelling from Delhi to Dubai faced prolonged delays of more than 24 hours after two SpiceJet flights were disrupted, prompting stranded travellers to stage a protest inside Delhi airport on Tuesday.

Two SpiceJet flights bound for Dubai were hit by major delays after an aircraft was grounded due to operational issues, leaving scores of passengers stranded at Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport.

Flight SG 5111, which was originally scheduled to depart at 7:45 am on Monday, was repeatedly rescheduled — first to Monday evening and later to 9 am on Tuesday. However, the flight had still not departed at the time of reporting, while flight-track-

ing platform Flightradar24 showed its status as “cancelled”. Another Delhi-Dubai service, SG 5105, was scheduled to leave at 6:45 pm on Monday but was subsequently pushed back to 12 noon on Tuesday.

US open to Iran negotiations, Trump says

US President Donald Trump said Iran is seeking an agreement with the United States, adding that he would decide whether Washington would enter negotiations with Tehran.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump said Iran wanted a deal “quickly and badly”, while indicating that the US remained open to the possibility of talks.

The comments come amid renewed regional tensions and ongoing efforts to find a diplomatic path to ease the conflict involving Iran.



Meta agrees to report child abuse cases to Indian authorities



Meta has agreed to report child sexual abuse cases and other child safety-related matters to appropriate law enforcement agencies in India, as the government steps up pressure on social media companies to protect minors from harmful and illegal online content. Government sources said on Tuesday that the

online safety of children is a “fundamental principle” for every social media platform operating in India and is “absolutely non-negotiable”. Authorities warned that action would be taken against platforms that fail to proactively identify, remove and report harmful content involving children.

US judge blocks Trump move to restrict international student stays

Court halts new four-year cap on student and exchange visas, warning rule could cause “catastrophic” damage to US universities and economy.

A US federal judge has temporarily blocked a Trump administration rule that sought to limit how long foreign students, exchange visitors and journalists could remain in the United States, just a day before the policy was due to take effect. US District Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV in Massachusetts issued a preliminary injunction on Monday, halting implementation of the rule while a legal challenge against it proceeds. The policy, finalised by the Department of Home-



land Security in July, would have imposed a maximum stay of four years for foreign students and exchange visitors, while journalists would generally have been limited to 240 days. Journalists from China would have faced a shorter 90-day limit.

Oman chase history at 27th Gulf Cup

Red Warriors begin campaign against Iraq on September 23 as Tarik Sektioui prepares for his first official tournament in charge.

Oman will head into the 27th Gulf Cup in Jeddah with ambitions of adding a third title to their record, as the national team prepares for one of the region’s most fiercely contested football tournaments.

The tournament, which begins on September 23 in Saudi Arabia, represents an important test for the Red Warriors and their new head coach Tarik Sektioui, with Oman hoping to build momentum ahead of the Asian Cup.

Oman have twice lifted the Gulf Cup, winning their maiden title on home soil in Muscat in



2009 before triumphing again in Kuwait in 2017.

The national team will begin its Group A campaign against Iraq on September 23, before taking on hosts Saudi Arabia on September 26 and concluding the group stage against Kuwait on September 29.

Expectations remain high given Oman’s strong record in the competition.

The Red Warriors have reached the Gulf Cup final six times and have regularly performed strongly since the tournament adopted the two-group format.



Allan Border, Steve Waugh and other former Australia captains urge Aus Foreign Minister to raise concerns over Imran Khan's detention

Seven former Australia cricket skippers have written to Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong to raise humanitarian concerns over the detention of former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, Cricinfo reported.

Babar Azam turns to domestic cricket after 7 years amid prolonged Test form struggles

Pakistan Test skipper Babar Azam’s dip in form has seen him turn to domestic cricket.

The batter is set to represent Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) as a guest player in the ongoing President’s Trophy Grade 1 first-class tournament, Cricinfo reported.



Oman national cricket team ready for first-ever Asian Games challenge

Oman’s national cricket team is gearing up for a historic debut at the 2026 Asian Games in Japan, with the squad completing the final phase of its technical and physical preparations ahead of the continental tournament.

The Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games will be held from September 19 to October 4, with Oman making its first appearance in the men’s cricket competition. The campaign will also mark a significant milestone as Oman fields a squad made entirely up of national players at the Asian Games.

Saeed bin Haider Al Balushi, manager of the national cricket team, said



the squad is completing its final internal training camp, which runs from September 1 to 19, with the focus on bringing the players to peak readiness before the competition.

The preparation programme has included intensive training sessions as well as four friendly matches against teams competing in Oman’s elite league, aimed at improving match sharpness and strengthening coordination among the players.

Al Balushi said preparations for the Asian Games began in March with training programmes at the Oman Cricket Academy in Al Amerat.

