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Oman, Rwanda agree to open embassies, establish joint business council

Oman and Rwanda have agreed to open resident embassies in their respective countries as part of a broader push to strengthen bilateral relations, according to a joint statement issued following Rwandan President Paul Kagame's official visit to the Sultanate.

The two countries also agreed to establish a joint committee and a joint business council, as well as implement a cooperation programme aimed at expanding engagement across areas of mutual interest.

Oman economy set to grow 4% in 2026, reports CBO



Central Bank of Oman says growth will accelerate as non-oil sectors expand, while fiscal and current account balances are expected to return to surplus.

Oman's economy is expected to grow by 4.0 percent in 2026, up from 2.4 percent in 2025, supported by stronger activity across both oil and non-oil sectors, according to the Central Bank of Oman's Annual Report for 2025.

Oman Airports tests self-driving electric vehicle at Salalah Airport

The trial was carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology.

His Excellency Eng. Saeed bin Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, attended the event along-

side officials from Oman Airports.

The initiative aims to assess modern mobility technologies and explore their potential applications within the airport environment, supporting Oman's wider efforts to adopt smart and environmentally sustainable transportation solutions.



Rwanda President Kagame visits Razat Royal Farm in Salalah

Rwandan President Paul Kagame visited the Razat Royal Farm in Salalah on Tuesday, where he was briefed on its agricultural and livestock production facilities and development practices.

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Rwandan President Paul Kagame visited the Razat Royal Farm in Salalah on Tuesday as part of his official visit to the Sultanate of Oman, the Oman News Agency reported.

Kagame was briefed on the history and objectives of the farm, as well as its facilities and capabilities supporting the development of agricultural and livestock production.

Officials also outlined the farm's use of modern practices and approaches aimed at improving production and supporting the development of the agricultural sector.



SalamAir to launch Muscat-Copenhagen service via Baghdad in November

SalamAir, Oman's low-cost carrier, has announced the opening of ticket sales for its new service to Copenhagen, Denmark, via Baghdad, with the first flight scheduled for November 14, 2026.

Operating under fifth-freedom traffic rights on the Baghdad-Copenhagen sector, the service will connect Muscat and Copenhagen with a scheduled stop in Baghdad, creating a new travel link between Oman, Iraq and Denmark. Travellers from Muscat will be able to continue to Copenhagen via Baghdad, while passengers in Iraq can book flights directly between Baghdad and

the Danish capital. With one-way Lite fares starting from RO 130.99 between Muscat and Copenhagen via Baghdad, and from RO 99.99 between Baghdad and Copenhagen, the service will expand affordable travel options, strengthen international connectivity, and support demand for leisure, business, and visiting friends and relatives.



Over 480 non-compliant consumer products seized in Oman's Al Dakhiliyah

The CPA said the seized goods comprised of expired perfumes and facial cleansers and royal honey products containing prohibited substances. The latter included Epimedium honey packaged in sachets and glass jars, as well as Bio Honey products.

The authority said the products were seized for failing to comply with consumer protection and safety requirements. The seized goods have been placed under custody, while legal measures have been taken against the violators, according to the CPA.

Mobile subscriptions in Oman reach 8.4 million by end-July 2026



The total number of mobile telecommunications subscriptions in the Sultanate of Oman increased by one percent year-on-year to 8,435,420 by the end of July 2026, according to the latest data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

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The data showed that active postpaid mobile subscriptions rose by 6.8 percent to 1,326,014, while active prepaid mobile subscriptions declined by 2.6 percent to 5,394,199. Subscriptions to Inter-

net of Things (IoT) services increased by 9.3 percent to 1,715,207 by the end of July 2026. In fixed internet services, fibre-optic subscriptions for homes and businesses grew by 6.4 percent to 366,686.

Muscat Municipality simplifies vehicle parking permit transfer process

Vehicle parking permit holders in Muscat can now amend or transfer their permits electronically, without having to visit municipal service centres, Muscat Municipality has announced.

The service allows applicants to submit requests through the municipality's website by selecting the relevant parking permit service, completing the required information and uploading supporting documents. To apply, users should visit the municipality's E-Services section and select Parking Permits, followed by Vehicle Parking Permit Modification or Transfer.



Seven expats arrested with large quantity of psychotropic tablets in Muscat

The arrests were carried out by the Directorate General for Combating Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, according to the ROP. The authorities said quantities of narcotics and psychotropic tablets were seized from the arrested individual. Legal procedures are currently being completed against them, the ROP added.



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Oman economy set to grow 4% in 2026, reports CBO

The report, which provides a comprehensive assessment of macroeconomic and financial developments in the Sultanate of Oman, said the country's economic environment remained supportive during 2025 despite external challenges, while continued investment and structural reforms strengthened medium-term growth prospects. Real GDP grew by 2.4 percent in 2025, compared with 1.6 percent in 2024, supported by growth in both oil and non-oil activities. Non-oil

sectors expanded by 3.1 percent, reflecting continued momentum across key areas of the economy. The agriculture and fisheries sector recorded the strongest growth at 10.2 percent, supported by efforts to strengthen food security and local production. Construction activity grew by 2 percent on the back of continued investments and development projects, while the services sector expanded by 3.1 percent, benefiting from strong domestic demand.

BankDhofar named 'Bank of the Year' at 5th TAS Oman Business Awards

The recognition honours BankDhofar's performance, innovation and contribution to the development of Oman's banking sector.

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BankDhofar has been named 'Bank of the Year – Oman' at the 5th TAS Oman Business Awards, one of the flagship honours presented at the annual business awards organised by The Arabian Stories (TAS).

The award recognises BankDhofar's performance in Oman's banking sector, its continued focus on innovation and customer experience, and its contribution to the Sultanate's broader economic development.



Burjeel Hospital wins 'Best Private Hospital' award at fifth TAS Oman Business Awards

The recognition highlights Burjeel Hospital's contribution to private healthcare in Oman and its focus on clinical excellence, patient care and specialised medical services.



Burjeel Hospital has been named 'Best Private Hospital' at the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards, recognising its contribution to Oman's healthcare sector and commitment to delivering high-quality patient care.

The prestigious award was presented during the TAS Oman Business Awards ceremony at InterCityHotel Muscat, which brought together senior executives, entrepreneurs, industry leaders and representatives from across the Sultanate.

Burjeel Hospital has established a significant presence in Oman's private healthcare landscape, providing a range of medical and surgical services while expanding access to specialised care.

The hospital's approach combines clinical expertise, medical technology and patient-focused services, as healthcare providers across the Sultanate continue to respond to growing demand for advanced and specialised treatment.

Oman Luxury named ‘Omani Brand of the Year’ at fifth TAS Oman Business Awards

The homegrown fragrance house was recognised for taking Omani luxury to the world, building a distinctive global identity rooted in the Sultanate’s heritage and culture.



Oman Luxury has been named ‘Omani Brand of the Year’ at the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards, recognising the homegrown fragrance house for its brand development, identity and growing presence in the luxury fragrance market.

The prestigious award was presented by HE Khalid bin Hilal Al Maawali, Chairman of the Majlis Al Shura, during the awards ceremony held at Inter-cityHotel Muscat.

Founded in Oman, Oman Luxury has developed a premium fragrance portfolio rooted in the Sultanate’s heritage and culture, combining Omani influences with contemporary luxury perfumery.

The brand has sought to take an Omani luxury identity to a wider international audience, using fragrance and storytelling to showcase elements of the Sultanate’s traditions, landscapes and cultural character.

Silambu Kasinathan honoured with Excellence in Engineering Leadership Award at TAS Oman Business Awards

Kasinathan’s recognition at the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards comes as he marks more than 40 years of professional service in Oman, reflecting a career closely linked to the Sultanate’s industrial and engineering development.

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Silambu Kasinathan, Divisional Director at Tech-tas Engineering Consultancy, has been honoured with the Excellence in Engineering Leadership Award at the 5th TAS Oman Business Awards, recognising a distinguished professional journey spanning more than 40 years in the Sultanate.



India-Bangladesh rail officials begin talks to resume passenger train services



An inter-governmental railway meeting, known as IGRM, between India and Bangladesh is taking place now in Dhaka to resume the train services.

India and Bangladesh, along with railway officials from both countries, on Tuesday began a three-day meeting in Dhaka to work towards resuming passenger train services that had been suspended. Speaking to ANI, Bangla-

desh Railway's Additional Director General (Operations), Mohammad Nazmul Islam, said, "...connections were active, which were suspended in August 2024. However, Indian freight trains continue to operate without any hindrance.

Among the three passenger trains, the Maitree Express operated between Dhaka Cantonment and Chitpur (Kolkata, India); the Bandhan Express ran between Khulna and Kolkata; and the Mitali Express operated between Dhaka Cantonment and

New Jalpaiguri." An inter-governmental railway meeting, known as IGRM, between India and Bangladesh is taking place now in Dhaka to resume the train services.

Canada's retaliatory US tariffs take effect as trade dispute grows

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Canada's retaliatory tariffs targeting US merchandise officially came into force shortly after midnight on Tuesday, as Prime Minister Mark Carney ramped up economic measures against the nation's primary trading partner following the breakdown of bilateral negotiations last month, deepening a prolonged 18-month trade dispute.



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

United States President Donald Trump utilised his Labour Day proclamation to champion a proposed levy concerning H-1B visa applications, asserting that the measure would incentivise domestic firms to prioritise local employment before seeking personnel abroad. "To ensure we are hiring and training American workers, we are proposing a new fee on H-1B visa petitions that will encourage companies to invest in qualified Americans before looking overseas for labour," Trump stated in the Monday proclamation issued in local time. By incorporating this stance, the presidential address directly inte-



grated the highly scrutinised H-1B framework into a broader address centred on industrial production, commercial tariffs, and domestic employment security.

Japan announce squad for historic T20I against India in Sano

The squad features the same group selected for Japan’s home Asian Games campaign, which begins in Nagoya two days after the India fixture, reported ICC.

Japan have announced their squad for their historic men’s T20I against reigning T20 World Cup champions and world No.1 India, with Kendel Kadowaki-Fleming set to lead the side in the landmark clash at the Sano International Cricket Ground on September 22.

The squad features the same group selected for Japan’s home Asian Games campaign, which begins in Nagoya two days after the India fixture, reported ICC.

Kadowaki-Fleming, Japan’s all-time leading T20I run-scorer, will captain the side and will be joined by Ibrahim Takahashi and Declan Suzuki-McComb, the other two members of the squad with more than 50 T20I appearances.

Japan have selected their squad with their Asian Games campaign in mind and have therefore left out players who meet ICC eligibility requirements for T20Is but are not eligible under Asian Games regulations.



That has opened the door for emerging spin-bowling all-rounder Jake Kusuda-Nairn, who earned his place after impressing in domestic cricket. Veteran Tsuyoshi Takada also returns to the squad, having first represented Japan

at the ICC East Asia-Pacific Twenty20 Championship in 2013.

The squad includes Wataru Miyauchi and Makoto Taniyama, both products of Japanese schools that have cricket Bukatsu programmes.

Kylian Mbappe backs Ballon d’Or hopes after historic World Cup campaign

Kylian Mbappe believes his historic FIFA World Cup campaign has put him firmly in contention for the Ballon d’Or, with the Real Madrid forward admitting that playing for the Spanish giants naturally brings expectations of individual honours.



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Cricket Australia approves Big Bash privatisation, Renegades first club to go on sale



Cricket Australia (CA) has approved a new privatisation model for the Big Bash League (BBL) and Women’s Big Bash League (WBBL), with the Melbourne Renegades set to become the first club to be offered to private

investors, reported cricket.com.au.

CA will invite bids for a 100 per cent stake in the Renegades, with the aim of completing the sale in time for new ownership to take charge from the 2027-28 BBL and WBBL seasons.

