



Passengers using the bus service between Muscat International Airport and Ruwi have noted a recent revision in the fare, which has been increased from 500bz to RO1.

Commuters said they came to know of the change only upon reaching the bus stop, many late at night after arriving on flights. Some passengers sought clarification from drivers regarding the new fare, citing the absence of advance notice.

Mohammad Rahman, a Bangladeshi passenger, said the bus service is essential for many travellers. "Buses are meant for common people. Many of us depend on the service, especially after late-night flights," he said.

Another regular user of the route, Rashid Alam from Bangladesh, said that while the revised fare may appear modest, communication is important. "ROI may not seem significant to some, but for frequent travellers it adds up. Advance information would have helped," he said.

Passengers highlighted the importance of public transport for airport connectivity, particularly for blue-collar workers and low-income travellers who rely on buses considering taxi fares are higher during peak hours and at night.

An official at Ruwi bus stand confirmed the revision, stating, "Yes, the price for the direct bus service from the airport to Ruwi has been increased recently. Fares vary by route, and this particular service is now RO1."

## Minister reviews disability services as MoSD advances national strategy

H.E Dr Laila bint Ahmed al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, visited the Association for Children with Disabilities on Monday to review its services, rehabilitation programmes and efforts to support children with disabilities and promote their integration into society.

The visit reflects commitment of the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) to strengthening the social services system and enhancing the role of civil society organisations in the care and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

During the visit, H E Laila toured the association's departments and facilities, where she was briefed on the therapeutic, educational and rehabilitation services provided to children. She also reviewed vocational and training initiatives aimed at de-

The minister inaugurated a new hall designed to enhance children's motor and cognitive abilities, encourage innovation and stimulate learning through



*The Association for Children with Disabilities currently serves 361 children. It offers specialised programmes, including physical and occupational therapy, as well as psychological and behavioural support*

### National disability

### strategy for 2026-2030

Oman is moving towards formulation of a national strategy for the disability sector for the 2026-2030 period, as part of ongoing efforts to enhance the rights of persons with disabilities and quality of services provided to them.

The announcement was made during a meeting of the National Committee for the Care of Persons with Disabilities held on Sunday, chaired by H E Najjar, who also serves as chairperson of

the committee

The committee examined a proposal to develop the strategy which is expected to serve as a guiding framework for policies, programmes and services targeting persons with disabilities in the coming phase.

Members also discussed efforts to introduce ability-based assessment mechanisms for persons with disabilities, as well as mechanisms to ensure efficient and organised provision of assistive devices and support aids to eligible beneficiaries.

Discussions covered reconstitution of the National Committee for Persons with Disabilities in accordance with the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities issued via Royal Decree No 92/2025, in line with the updated legislative framework governing the sector.

The meeting concluded with a presentation summarising the ninth annual meeting report of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Expert Group on Disability, held in Cairo last year, highlighting key regional experiences and recommendations.



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## ORDER OF APPRECIATION FOR ILO OFFICIAL

His Majesty Sultan Haith bin Tarik conferred the Order of Appreciation on Gilbert Hounghou, Director-General of International Labour Organization (ILO), in recognition of his efforts and contributions in multiple fields to advance international cooperation. The order was presented by H.H Sayyid Shahab bin Tarik at Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, during his reception of the guest at Al Maratba's Camp on Monday.

ONA

<h1>TENDER NOTICE</h1>		  <b>السوق الحرة مسقط</b>
<p>Muscat Duty Free invites local contracting companies specialized in retail fit-out works to participate in the Tender "<b>Refurbishment works for Muscat Duty Free Retail Outlets at Muscat International Airport</b>" details shown as follows,</p>		
<b>Tender Reference</b>	MDF-Refurbishment	
<b>Tender Fee</b>	OMR 1000- (Fee waived for SME/Riyada companies)	
<b>Beneficiary details</b>	Name: Oman Sales and Services LLC Bank: National Bank of Oman, Corporate branch A/c No: 1074-418905-001	
<b>Tender Purchase</b>	Tenderer to email payment receipt/confirmation to, <a href="mailto:admin@monabconsultants.com">admin@monabconsultants.com</a> , <a href="mailto:suresh@muscatdutyfree.com">suresh@muscatdutyfree.com</a> Tender documents will be issued via email.	
<b>Purchase end date</b>	18/12/2025	
<b>Site visit date</b>	25/12/2025	
<b>Tender Submission date &amp; Location</b>	05/01/2026 Muscat Duty Free office 1st Floor, TRANSCOM Handling Building, Service Road, Muscat International Airport, Sultanate of Oman	
<b>Contact</b>	+968 7112 8999	

### MoE announces online classes today in Musandam

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has announced that all government, private and international schools in Musandam will conduct classes online on Tuesday owing to heavy rains expected to affect several areas of the governorate.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) issued a weather alert earlier on Monday warning of heavy rains and thunderstorms in Musandam, with the conditions expected to persist from early Tuesday till Wednesday. According to the alert, Musandam is expected to witness heavy thunderstorms accompanied by strong downdraft winds. Rainfall will range between 20mm and 60mm, raising the risk of flash floods in wadis and low-lying areas.

The CAA said downdraft winds may reach speeds of 15 to 35 knots (28-64kmph), while sea conditions along the Musandam coast and the Oman Sea are expected to deteriorate, with wave heights ranging between 1.5m and 2m. The thunderstorms are also likely to lead to reduced horizontal visibility.

The authority added that there is possibility of isolated rain with thunderstorms over Buraimi, North Batinah and South Batinah, as well as parts of the Al Hajar mountains, which could result in localised flash flooding.

The National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Centre urged residents and visitors to exercise caution during the alert period.