



HM RECEIVES THANKS CABLE FROM CUSTODIAN OF TWO HOLY MOSQUES

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in response to His Majesty's condolences cable on the death of Prince Badr Abdulmuhsin Al Saud. appreciation for His Majesty's heartfelt sentiments, praying to Allah the Almighty to rest the deceased in peace in paradise and protect His Majesty against all harm. — **ONA**



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RIISING OMANI START-UPS PROGRAMME

Sayyid Bilarab briefed about role of Future Fund Oman



MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, Honorary President of “Rising Omani Start-ups Programme”, yesterday visited Oman Investment Authority (OIA) where he was briefed about the role of Future Fund Oman in promoting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and emerging companies (startups).

During the visit, HH Sayyid Bilarab took note of the fact that Future Fund Oman acts as a reliable investment partner for SMEs and startups by allocating 10% of its capital to the firms, thus expanding their access to non-traditional financing. He learnt that the fund also contributes to economic diversification, enters into investment partnerships and attracts investments to targeted sectors in the Sultanate of Oman.

HH Sayyid Bilarab was also briefed about OIA's business tasks and investment activi-

ties in 2023 that affirm its role in promoting economic development and integration with other sectors in a manner that achieves financial sustainability. implementation of the Royal orders of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Ministry of Health began to distribute electronic blood sugar sensors and insulin pumps to Omani children with Type 1 diabetes from among those aged below 18 years.

These highly advanced devices allow accurate monitoring that helps diminish the symptoms resulting from blood sugar deficiencies. Although Type 1 diabetes has no cure, but it can be controlled in children, to reduce the occurrence of the ailment's serious complications. Modern technologies used in the devices improve the quality of life of diabetic children and help them lead normal lives. — **ONA**

HM'S JORDAN VISIT TO BOOST BILATERAL TIES, INVESTMENT

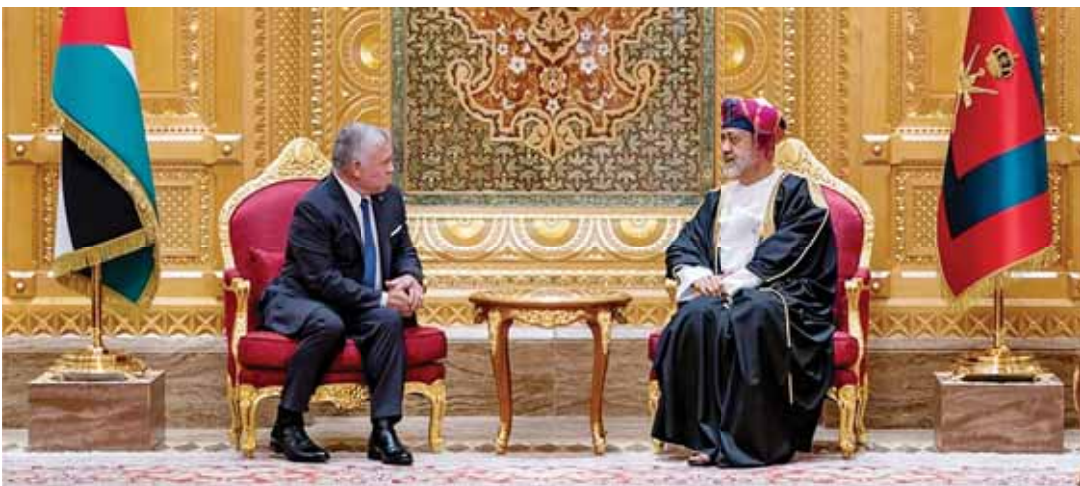
The visit will address a series of important issues besides discussing the distinguished fraternal relations between the two countries, that extend over 53 years

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to Jordan on Wednesday will boost cooperation between the two countries in various spheres, especially in the economic, tourism, trade and investment areas.

Fahd bin Abdulrahman Al Ojaili, Ambassador of Oman to Jordan affirmed that His Majesty's visit to Jordan has a great importance, as it is the first official visit of His Majesty to Jordan since assuming the reins of powers in the country.

He also said that the visit will address a series of important issues besides discussing the distin-



guished fraternal relations between the two countries, that extend over 53 years. He described the relations between Oman and Jordan as a vivid example of fraternity, cooperation and understanding.

The ambassador also underlined the importance of His Majesty's visit in elevating the commercial, investment and industrial exchange and cooperation in all fields, in addition to boosting cooperation between the private sectors in the two countries.

Amjad Al Quhaiwi, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Sultanate of Oman pointed out that the visit of His Majesty comes in response to an invitation by King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of Jordan.

He said that the visit reflects the distinguished and historic relations between the two countries.

He pointed out that the visit coincides with the Kingdom of Jordan's celebration of the silver jubilee of King Abdullah II assuming the reins of power.

He explained that there are opportunities for cooperation between the two countries in the fields of information technology (IT), food, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, mining and communications industries, stressing the joint keenness to promote economic cooperation and removing any obstacles facing businessmen and the private sector.

Statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) show that the volume of trade exchange between Oman and Jordan witnessed remarkable growth during 2023, rising by 25 percent increase to reach about OMR74.51 million, compared to

OMR59.72 million in 2022.

Statistics further show that Omani exports to Jordan during 2023 increased by 28.2 percent, to exceed OMR43.85 million, compared to more than OMR34.20 million in 2022. The total value of Oman's imports from Jordan in 2023 increased by 41.5 percent to about OMR27.51, compared to OMR19.44 million in 2022.

Preliminary statistics further reveal that the value of direct investments from Jordan into Oman amounted to about OMR241.80 million at the end of last year.

With regard to the tourism sector, the number of Omani tourists who visited Jordan, according to the latest statistics last year, reached 21,738, and their number this year until the end of last April reached 6,757.

— **WITH ONA INPUTS**



Foreign ministry officials offer condolences at Iran's Embassy

A4

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Blood sugar electronic sensors distributed

1 In implementation of the Royal orders of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Ministry of Health began to distribute electronic blood sugar sensors and insulin pumps to Omani children with Type 1 diabetes from among those aged below 18 years. **>A3**



OMAN Tenders over OMR584 million submitted

2 The Secretariat General of the Tender Board said that, during the first quarter of 2024, a total of 3,056 tenders were offered through Esnad electronic bidding system. The tenders, floated by establishments bound by the Tender Law, have a lumpsum value of more than OMR584 million. **>A5**

WORLD 1 dead in Singapore Airlines turbulence

3 One person was killed, and more than 30 others were injured, after a Singapore Airlines flight from London to Singapore encountered “severe turbulence,” the airline said on Tuesday. A 73-year-old British man died in the incident, likely from a heart attack, Bangkok airport authorities said. **>A7**

MOTORSPORTS

Oman a good venue for Formula 4 circuit: FIA president

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The President of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), Dr. Mohammed Ben Sulayem, gave strong hints that Oman could come up with a Formula 4 circuit in the future.

In an exclusive chat with *Times of Oman*, the chief of the world motorsports body said: “We have some great circuits in the region. But the time has come when the circuits can give back something to the nation. I believe Oman is a good venue to build a F4 circuit.”

“We already have in the UAE and Saudi Arabia and with Oman being the third destination, it could be a great option for drivers as it would be convenient for logistics with three venues in one region.”

The FIA supremo, who took over the world body in December 2021, added: “I have had encouraging talks with Oman Automobile Association (OAA) on this

subject along with government officials. They have been positive to the plan and I am hopeful that Oman may have a Formula 4 circuit in the future. Formula 4 racing is a bridge between go-karting and formula racing with the pinnacle of it being Formula 1.”

Ben Sulayem said: “The idea of a F4 circuit has to be sustainable and the government will be doing a feasibility study. I am for it as the most important aspect has to be that the model has to be a sustainable one.”

All praise for Al Rawahi

A rally star in his heydays from the UAE, Ben Sulayem was a name to reckon with in the eighties and nineties, having won 14 Middle East Rally Championship (MERC) titles, a record at one stage.

Rallying is still close to his heart as the FIA boss remembered. “Oman has been very close to my heart and has played a big role in my journey to what



I am today. The course of the Oman Rally those days was demanding and even today, thinking about it gives me goosebumps,” said Ben Sulayem.

“The rally in Oman tested the patience of drivers and one had to have speed and precision to clinch it,” he added.

Ben Sulayem was happy that

Oman's young talent Abdullah Al Rawahi is creating a place for himself in the MERC circuit.

Al Rawahi had the honour of receiving the 2023 FIA MERC title trophy as a joint winner with Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah from Ben Sulayem at the FIA Awards ceremony in Baku earlier this year.

Ben Sulayem spoke highly

about Al Rawahi and said: “Abdullah has proven to the world that he is a capable and talented driver. The MERC title, the first for an Omani, underlines the success and his skills. Champions like Abdullah also help in promoting the sport as people love to look up to champions.”

He added: “I am very happy to see him do well and also challenge the established names. His victory also makes the sport interesting as we love to see new faces on the podium. I remember my days when I was winning regularly. It can dishearten rivals and with Abdullah providing stiff competition, it augurs well for rallying in the region.”

The FIA boss said: “Abdullah's success is good for him, for Oman and for MERC.”

Ben Sulayem was also impressed by the organisational skills of OAA, which has been organising the MENA Nations Karting Cup that involved nearly 300 drivers. **>A5**

GAZA DEATH TOLL
as of May 21, 2024

Deaths
35,674
Injured
79,852

NBO GLOBAL EQUITY FUND

OPEN-ENDED INVESTMENT FUND



OFFER NOTICE

This advertisement is a summary of the prospectus of NBO Global Equity Fund ("Prospectus") approved by the Financial Services Authority of Oman ("FSA") vide its Administrative Decision No. KH/31/2024 dated 8 May 2024. NBO Global Equity Fund (the "Fund") is an open-ended investment fund established by National Bank of Oman SAOG ("NBO") registered in the Sultanate of Oman as a specialized bank and licensed as an Investment Fund Manager in accordance with the regulations of the FSA. Terms used but not defined in this advertisement shall have the meaning given to them in the Prospectus.

This advertisement summary should not be relied on for making an investment decision and is not intended to be a substitute for reading the whole Prospectus. Each investor should read the Prospectus and Articles of Association of the Fund in full before making their investment decision. This advertisement summary has been extracted from the unofficial translation of the Prospectus prepared in Arabic and approved by the FSA.

Fund Name	NBO Global Equity Fund
Fund Sponsor	The Fund is sponsored by NBO. NBO will subscribe for 5% of the capital of the Fund which it will, in accordance with the CMA Regulations, neither sell nor redeem for at least three years from the date of closure of the Initial Subscription Period.
Fund Address	NBO Global Equity Fund National Bank of Oman SAOG Investment Banking Division P. O. Box 751, Postal Code 112 Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman
Fund Objectives	The primary objective of the Fund is to generate returns from an actively managed portfolio comprised of equity securities listed and about to be listed on global stock exchanges including ADRs and GDRs and equity-oriented securities such as open-ended UCIT funds and ETFs investing in such listed securities.
Term	Open-ended
Fund Structure	Open-ended fund investing in (i) listed and about to be listed global equity securities including ADRs and GDRs and (ii) funds such as UCIT funds and exchange traded funds (ETFs) that invest in such listed equity securities.
Subscription Start Date	29th May 2024
Subscription Closing Date	13th June 2024
Fund's Financial Year	From 1st January until 31st December of each year, first year will commence from the end of the Initial Subscription Period until 31st of December of the same year.
Fund Currency	Rial Omani
Fund Capital	Minimum: 2,000,000 Rials Omani (two million Rials Omani)
Administrator	Standard Chartered Bank, Oman
Issue Manager & Distributor	National Bank of Oman SAOG
Investment Manager	National Bank of Oman SAOG
Investment Advisor	Principal Global Investors LLC
Legal Advisors	Trowers & Hamlins
Collecting Bank	- National Bank of Oman SAOG - Ubhar Capital SAOC - Horizons Capital Markets SAOC
Custodian	Standard Chartered Bank, Oman
Initial Subscription Price	1.020 Rial Omani (including 20 Baisa as issue expenses)
Initial Subscription Period	29th May 2024 to 13th June 2024
Minimum Subscription for Initial Issue	The minimum Initial Subscription shall be 2,000 Units per Subscriber and thereafter in multiples of 100 Units.
Maximum Subscription	Open.
Subscription Fees	Subscription fees (or issue expenses during the Initial Subscription Period): 2% on total invested amount plus any applicable VAT and taxes (the Management Body or the Investment Manager may waive these fees partially or totally).
Redemption of Units	Unitholders that have subscribed for Units during the Initial Subscription Period shall have a three (3) month lock-in period from the date on which the Fund is registered on the register of investment funds maintained by the FSA. After this three-month period, or the date the Fund has published its first NAV, whichever is later, each Unitholder shall have the right to redeem or transfer its Units (subject to the terms and conditions specified in the Prospectus and the Articles of Association).
Redemption Fees	2.00% if redeemed within 6 months of the date of subscription, 1.50% if redeemed within 12 months of the date of subscription, 1.00% if redeemed within 18 months of the date of subscription, 0.50% if redeemed within 24 months of the date of subscription. There shall be no redemption fees after this period. Redemption fees will be retained by the Fund. Any applicable VAT and taxes will be chargeable in addition to such fees.
Net Asset Value (NAV)	The calculation of NAV is the responsibility of the Administrator and is to be effected at the close of each Valuation Day. The valuation of the Units will be carried out on each Valuation Day.
Risk Factors	Investments in the Fund shall be exposed to risks. The Fund does not guarantee any returns. Please refer to Chapter 10 of the Prospectus for further discussions on key risk factors applicable to this Fund.
Auditor	Moore Stephens LLC
Taxation	As per the Income Tax Law No. 28 of 2009 (as amended), income accruing to investment funds set up in Oman under the Securities Law shall be exempted from tax in Oman. However, the income earned by the Fund may be subject to foreign taxation to the extent income is derived from other jurisdictions. Please refer to Chapter 9 of the Prospectus.
Eligible Investors	The Fund is open for investment to retail and non-retail investors within and outside Oman who are not US Persons. All investors, including investors located outside of Oman, are responsible for ensuring they inform themselves of, and are permitted to subscribe for Units under, all applicable laws and regulations, including the laws and regulations of Oman and of their jurisdiction (if different). Please also carefully read the information set out in the Important Notice, in the Prospectus.
Management Fees	The Investment Manager is entitled to management fees of 1.05% per annum of the Net Asset Value of the Fund plus any applicable VAT and other taxes. The management fee will be calculated based on the daily NAV of the Fund and paid monthly in arrears.
Advisor Fees	The Investment Advisor is entitled to advisor fees of 0.40% per annum of the Net Asset Value of the Fund plus any applicable VAT and other taxes and withholdings (such as withholding taxes). The Investment Advisor fee will be calculated based on the daily NAV of the Fund and paid monthly in arrears.
Performance Fees	The Investment Manager is entitled to a performance fee of 10% of any annual return exceeding 10% (net of other fees and expenses) plus any applicable VAT and other taxes. The Investment Manager will not impose any performance fees if the Fund's performance in any financial year is 10% or below and calculated against a floor of the NAV per Unit at the start of the relevant reference period for the relevant financial year (i.e., 1 January in the relevant financial year save for the first financial year where the relevant reference period will commence on the Subscription Closing Date) and taking into account all distributions made to the Unitholders in the relevant year. Performance fees are calculated and payable at the end of each financial year.
Other Fund Expenses	The Fund will also deduct other operating expenses as discussed in detail in Chapter 8 of the Prospectus.
Dividends	The Fund's dividend policy is set within the framework of the CMA Regulations, wherein the Investment Manager will make a recommendation to the Management Body on whether to distribute or reinvest the dividends, any proceeds and returns from investments or other balances available to the Fund. The Management Body of the Fund may decide to distribute by way of dividends or other distributions to Unitholders of the Fund or reinvest in the Fund any dividends, proceeds and returns from investments or other balances available to the Fund as deemed appropriate by the Management Body after considering the recommendations of the Investment Manager.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FUND

Investment Objective

The primary objective of the Fund is to generate returns over the long term from an actively managed portfolio comprised of equity, equity-oriented securities listed and about to be listed on global stock exchanges and funds investing in the same.

The Fund will not materially change its investment objectives set out in the Prospectus without obtaining approval of the Management Body and, if required by applicable law, the required approval of the Unitholders.

Investment Strategy

To pursue the Fund's investment objective, the Investment Manager (NBO) shall follow a disciplined investment process, in consultation with the Investment Advisor (Principal Global Investors LLC). The Investment Advisor will, pursuant to the Investment Advisory Agreement, support the Investment Manager in achieving the set objectives by recommending a combination of listed equity securities in Developed Markets and/or Emerging Markets. The Fund shall follow an active management strategy.

Asset Allocation Strategy

Asset Class	Listed equities	Equity-oriented securities	Cash and cash-equivalent
Weights	Up to 100%	Up to 100%	Up to 25%
Underlying Securities	Companies listed and about to be listed on global stock exchanges including ADRs and GDRs	UCIT funds and/or ETFs	Cash and money-market instruments with less than 1 year of maturity

Fund's Management Body

The Articles of Association of the Fund and the Prospectus form the foundations of the constitution of the Fund and unless any of their provisions are in conflict with the Securities Law and the Rules and Executive Regulations prescribed by the CMA for Investment Funds or Directives issued by the CMA (that are currently in force during the date of this notice), the provisions mentioned therein shall be complied with.

The Fund shall be managed and supervised by the Management Body elected by the General Meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association.

The members of the Management Body shall be not less than three and not more than seven, including the chairman and vice chairman. The chairman or anyone authorized by the chairman shall represent the Fund before third parties and the courts.

The Articles of Association shall determine the term of office of the Management Body provided it shall not be more than five years from the date of formation. The first Management Body shall be appointed by the sponsor of the Fund in coordination with other sponsors (if any), provided its term shall not be more than one year from the date of the Fund's registration in the FSA's funds register.

Where any member's position falls vacant prior to the end of the term, the other members, representing at least the majority of the remaining members of the Management Body, may elect a replacement member until the end of the term.

The following members have been nominated by the Sponsor for the first Management Body, which shall comprise of 3 individuals:

1. Ali Mustafa Al Lawati
2. Aiman Hassan Al Balushi
3. Kunal Sahay

SUBSCRIPTION CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES

Subscription Eligibility and remedies of the Fund in the case of breach of subscription requirements

Investment in the Units offered is open to Omani and non-Omani institutions/individuals and other juristic persons other than US Persons provided that they meet the eligibility requirements specified in the subscription application.

The Fund is not open to investment from Sanctioned Persons or persons (including persons owned or controlled by such persons) located or headquartered in jurisdictions that are subject to Embargoes. The Fund, the Investment Manager and the Investment Advisor and their affiliates seek to comply with all applicable anti-money laundering, economic sanctions, anti-bribery and anti-boycott laws and regulations applicable to them and in the jurisdictions in which they conduct business, other applicable laws and regulations relating to the prevention of money laundering and other similar applicable laws and regulations (collectively, the "Anti-Corruption and Anti-Terrorism Laws") as may be amended from time to time.

As such, by submitting a subscription application each Subscriber represents and warrants to the Fund that they and all of their beneficial owners are not: (i) in breach of the Anti-Corruption and Anti-Terrorism Laws, (ii) US Persons, (iii) Sanctioned Persons or otherwise listed on any economic sanctions list or (iv) persons (including persons owned or controlled by such persons) located or headquartered in jurisdictions subject to Embargoes. The Fund has the right at any time to procure information from the Subscriber to verify the accuracy of these representations and warranties and the Subscriber is required to provide any such requested information promptly upon receipt of any such request.

Should the representations and warranties of the Subscriber given under the relevant paragraphs in the Prospectus be false or misleading, the Fund shall have the right to freeze the account of the Subscriber and a right to compulsorily redeem, at its sole and absolute discretion and at any time, the relevant Subscriber's Units at the prevailing NAV less the costs and liabilities caused to the Fund as a result of the Subscriber's breach of such representations and warranties.

The Fund shall comply with all requirements of Oman law relating to the prevention of money laundering, anti-bribery, anti-terrorism, trade embargoes and economic sanctions, now or hereafter in effect.

Initial Subscription Application

Minimum Size for Fund's Establishment

The Fund will be established with a minimum initial size of R.O. 2,000,000 for the Units. In the event that subscriptions received during the Initial Subscription Period are less than R.O. 2,000,000, then all application money received during the Initial Subscription Period shall be refunded to the respective applicants.

Initial Subscription Forms

Potential investors may obtain Initial Subscription Forms and a copy of the Prospectus from the main office(s) of the Collecting Bank or from the office of the Issue Manager.

Initial Subscription Price

During the Initial Subscription Period, Units will be allotted at a price of R.O. 1.020 per Unit comprising of R.O. 1.000/- value of the Unit and R.O. 0.020 charges towards issue expenses.

Minimum Subscription for Initial Issue

The minimum Initial Subscription shall be 2,000 Units per Subscriber and thereafter in multiples of 100 Units.

Maximum Subscription for Initial Issue

There is no maximum limit on subscription.

Initial Subscription Period

The Initial Subscription Period shall be from 29th May 2024 to 13th June 2024 during Business Hours.

Mode of subscription during the Initial Subscription Period

- Subscribers shall submit their application at a branch of the Collecting Bank ("Application"). Subscribers will need to ensure they hold an investor number issued by MCD in order to make an application.
- To submit the Application, Subscribers shall be required to fill in a complete Initial Subscription Form and furnish all their particulars as required in the Initial Subscription Form, including the "Civil Status Number" and "date of birth", copy of the "Birth Certificate" in case of minor children, and "Commercial Registration Number" in case of companies, etc.
- Before filling in the Initial Subscription Form, the Subscriber is required to examine the Prospectus and read the conditions and procedures governing subscription for Units with due attention. Each Subscriber shall have the responsibility of submitting all particulars and ensuring correctness and validity of information provided for in the Initial Subscription Form when submitting the Application.
- Subscribers shall complete and submit the Initial Subscription Form at a branch of the Collecting Bank, along with payment in the form accepted by the Collecting Bank towards the Units as specified in the Prospectus and ensuring that the documents in support of the information furnished referred to above are provided.
- In case of payment of the value for the subscription made through cheque/demand draft, the same shall be submitted in favour of "NBO Global Equity Fund (under formation)" or as otherwise advised by the Collecting Bank.
- Once completed, the Collecting Bank will validate the Subscriber's Application and provide the Subscriber with a copy of the acknowledgement of their Application. Each Subscriber should ensure that they receive a copy of the acknowledgement from the Collecting Bank.

Subscription during the Initial Subscription Period on Behalf of minor children

- Any person of age less than 18 years as of the first day of the Initial Subscription Period will be considered a minor.
- A father may subscribe on behalf of his minor children.
- If an Initial Subscription Form is submitted on behalf of a minor by any person other than the minor's father, the person submitting the Initial Subscription Form will be required to attach a legally valid power of attorney authorizing him or her to deal in the funds of the minor through sale, purchase and investment.

Bank Account and Documentation Details

- Along with the duly completed Initial Subscription Form, the Subscriber is required to submit a document confirming the correctness of the bank account number as provided for in the Initial Subscription Form except for any subscription through a bank other than the one with whom the Subscriber has his account.
- In case the Subscriber is applying for subscription through the Collecting Bank in which he does not hold an account, he can subscribe by submitting any document from his bank evidencing his account number and name such as the upper portion of the bank account statement issued by the bank containing these particulars only or a letter or any document issued by the said bank containing the said information. The Subscriber shall ensure that the evidence submitted is clearly readable and contains the account number and full name of the account holder.
- An application for subscription, which contains the bank account number of a person other than the Subscriber shall be rejected, with the exception of the applications made on behalf of minor children that contain bank account particulars of their father.
- A copy of a valid power of attorney duly endorsed by the competent legal authorities must be submitted in the event the subscription is on behalf of another person (with the exception of the subscription made on behalf of minor children by their father).
- In case of applications by juristic persons (non-individuals), which are signed by a person in his/her capacity as an authorized signatory, a copy of adequate and valid supporting documentation should be attached.
- The following is the check list for documentation requirement for Unitholders, together with any other documents that may be deemed necessary by the Collecting Bank or the Administrator or may be requested by the authorities concerned.

Applicant	Documents Required
Omani Male & Female – 18 years and above	1. Copy of identity card/passport 2. Proof of Bank Account 3. Proof of residential address
Non-Omani Nationals	1. Passport copy 2. Resident Card copy 3. Proof of Bank Account 4. Proof of residential address
Minor below 18 years, Both Omani and Non-Omani Nationals	1. Copy of birth certificate of the minor/passport 2. Father's Identity Card or Passport Copy (where he is applying on behalf of the minor). 3. Proof of Bank Account 4. For non-Omani nationals: resident card copy 5. Proof of residential address
Companies and Enterprises	1. Commercial registration copy or its equivalent for overseas registered companies 2. List of authorized signatories as registered with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion, if available. 3. ID copies of the signatories to the application 4. Proof of Bank Account 5. Ultimate Beneficial Owner details and other detail as may be required
Authorities and Pension Funds	1. Copy of constitutive decree or decision 2. List of authorized signatories 3. ID copy of the signatory to the application 4. Proof of Bank Account

Investor Identification and Anti-Money Laundering

The Investment Manager, the Issue Manager, the Collecting Bank, and the Administrator reserve the absolute right to require further verification of the identity of each potential Unitholder or that of the person or entity on whose behalf the potential Unitholder is applying for Units. Each potential Unitholder will provide evidence in a form and substance satisfactory to the Investment Manager, the Issue Manager, the Collecting Bank and the Administrator of its identity and, if so required, the source of its funds within a reasonable time period as determined by the Investment Manager, the Issue Manager, the Collecting Bank and the Administrator. Pending the provision of such evidence, an application for Units will be postponed. If a potential Unitholder fails to provide satisfactory evidence within the time specified, or if a potential Unitholder provides evidence but the Investment Manager, the Issue Manager, the Collecting Bank or the Administrator are not satisfied therewith, the subscription application may be rejected immediately, in which event any money received by way of application will be returned to the applicant by bank transfer to the account from which the monies originated, without any addition thereto and at the risk and expense of the applicant.

The Investment Manager, the Issue Manager, the Collecting Bank and the Administrator reserve the right to request such information as is necessary to verify the identity of a prospective Unitholder. In the event of delay or failure by the applicant to produce any information required for verification purposes, the Investment Manager, the Issue Manager, the Collecting Bank and the Administrator will refuse to accept the application from such potential Unitholder and the subscription monies relating thereto.

If any person who is a resident of Oman has a suspicion that a payment made in relation to the Fund (by way of offer or otherwise) contains the proceeds of criminal conduct, that person is required to report such suspicion pursuant to the Anti Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism Law promulgated by Royal Decree 30/2016, as amended.

Unitholders will also be expected to comply with the anti-money laundering regulations of their respective jurisdictions to the extent that they are applicable to their investment in the Units.

Collecting Bank

Subscribers shall submit duly filled in Initial Subscription Forms for initial subscription to the following Collecting Bank during their official working hours in the Initial Subscription Period:

1. National Bank of Oman SAOG
2. Ubhar Capital SAOC
3. Horizons Capital Markets SAOC

The Collecting Bank shall have the right not to accept an Initial Subscription Form that reaches the Collecting Bank after Business Hours on the Subscription Closing Date.

The Collecting Bank receiving Initial Subscription Forms shall be required to accept the Subscription Forms after confirmation of compliance with the procedure and subject matter, in line with the requirements as provided for in the Prospectus. Hence, the Collecting Bank shall instruct Subscribers to comply with and fulfill any requirement that may appear in the Initial Subscription Form.

Acceptance of the applications for subscription

The Collecting Bank receiving the initial subscription shall not accept Initial Subscription Forms under the following circumstances:

- i. if the Initial Subscription Form does not bear the signature of the Subscriber;
- ii. in case of failure of payment of the full value of the Units subscribed;
- iii. if the value of the Units subscribed for is paid through cheque and if the same is dishonoured for whatever be the reason;
- iv. if the Initial Subscription Form is submitted under joint names;
- v. if the Subscriber has subscribed through more than one Initial Subscription Form in the same name;
- vi. if the supporting documents referred to in the Prospectus are not enclosed with the Initial Subscription Form;
- vii. if the Initial Subscription Form does not contain all the particulars of the bank account of the Subscriber;
- viii. if any particulars of the bank account held by the Subscriber as provided for in the Initial Subscription Form are noted to be incorrect;
- ix. if the particulars of the bank account provided for in the application are found to be not relevant to the Subscriber, with the exception of the applications submitted in the name of minor children, who are allowed to make use of the particulars of the bank accounts held by their father;
- x. in case of failure to have the power of attorney attached with the application as provided for in the Prospectus in respect of the person who subscribes and signs on behalf of another person (with the exception of a father who subscribes on behalf of his minor children);
- xi. if the application has not complied with the legal and organizational requirements as provided for in the Prospectus or applicable laws; or
- xii. for any other reason as deemed appropriate in the best interests of the Fund.

In the event that following acceptance of an Initial Subscription Form and before delivery of the same to the Issue Manager, a Collecting Bank observes that the Initial Subscription Form does not comply with legal requirements as provided for in the Prospectus, the Collecting Bank will endeavour to contact the Subscriber so as to rectify the position. In case of failure to rectify the position within the period referred to, the Collecting Bank shall return the Initial Subscription Form to the Subscriber, together with the subscription money before expiry of the period specified for handing over of the applications to the Issue Manager.

The Collecting Bank shall submit a comprehensive report to the Issue Manager furnishing the details of the Initial Subscription Forms that are required to be rejected and reasons behind such rejection.

Allotment of Units and refund of money following the Initial Subscription Period

Following the completion of the Initial Subscription Period, the Issue Manager will arrange to allot Units within 15 (fifteen) days from the Subscription Closing Date and shall refund the subscription money to applicants whose application has been rejected. The Issue Manager will send allotment notices to the Subscribers who have been allotted Units, at the addresses as specified in their Subscription Forms.

The refund of subscription amounts in respect of which Units have not been allotted during the Initial Subscription Period (whether on account of rejection of the application or otherwise) may be undertaken by electronically transferring such amounts to the bank account numbers provided in the Subscription Forms.

Responsibilities & Obligations

The Issue Manager and the Collecting Bank receiving Initial Subscription Forms shall abide by the responsibilities and functions specified pursuant to the instructions and regulations laid down by the CMA. They shall also abide by any other responsibilities that are provided for in the agreements entered into between them and the Fund.

The parties concerned shall be required to take remedial measures with regard to the damages arising from any negligence committed in the performance of the functions and responsibilities assigned to them. The Issue Manager shall coordinate with the regulatory authorities in order to take all necessary actions and procedures in this regard.

Enquiry & Complaints:

Subscribers who intend to seek clarifications or file complaints with regard to the issues related to the allotment or rejected applications may contact the branch of the Collecting Bank where the subscription was made. In case of absence of any response from the branch, the Subscriber may contact the person concerned as hereunder:

Bank	Key person (S)	Postal Address	Phone No.	Fax No.	Email
National Bank of Oman SAOG	Jaffar Fuad Murtadha	PO Box 751, Ruwi, Postal Code 112 Muscat, Oman	2477 8563	2477 8993	jaffarfuaad@nbo.om

In case of initial subscriptions, if the Collecting Bank receiving the Initial Subscription Form fails to arrive at a solution or settlement with the person who has subscribed, it shall refer the subject matter to the Issue Manager, and keep the Subscriber posted of the progress and development in respect of the subject matter of the dispute. The Subscriber shall also keep in touch with the Collecting Bank that received the Initial Subscription Form only so as to know the decisions arrived at.

Expected time schedule for completion of allotment of Units following the Initial Subscription Period

#	Statement	Date
1	Date of FSA approval of the Prospectus	8th May 2024
2	First day of the Initial Subscription Period (Subscription Start Date)	29th May 2024
3	Last day of the Initial Subscription Period (Subscription Closing Date)	13th June 2024
4	Due date for Issue Manager to receive Initial Subscription Forms from the Collecting Bank	25th June 2024
5	Notifying FSA of the result of the approved subscription application	27th June 2024
6	Approval of FSA with regard to the proposal for the allotment of Units	1st July 2024
7	Commencement of refund of rejected subscription applications and dispatch of the notices regarding allotment of Units	2nd July 2024
8	Commencement of subsequent subscriptions to the Fund	Three months after registration of the Fund on the register of investment funds maintained by the FSA or the date the Fund has published its first NAV, whichever is later

Subscription for Units after the Initial Subscription Period

Following the closure of the Initial Subscription Period, eligible investors may subscribe for Units in the Continuous Offer Period, which shall commence three months after registration of the Fund on the register of investment funds maintained by the FSA or the date the Fund has published its first NAV, whichever is later.

Subscribers during the Continuous Offer Period must submit a duly completed Subscription Form to the Administrator, during Business Hours along with payment for the Units, on any Business Day along with documents in support of the subscription applications (referred to in the table on pages 50 and 51 of the Prospectus).

Office Address of the Issue Manager:

Investment Banking Division
National Bank of Oman SAOG
PO Box 751, PC 112, Ruwi
Tel: 24778563
JaffarFuad@nbo.om

Office Address of the Administrator:

Standard Chartered Bank
Super Plaza Building, 6th Floor,
Al Azaba, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: +968 2477 3559 / 3557
OM.securities-services@sc.com

Allotment of Units after the Initial Subscription Period

For subscriptions for Units after the Initial Subscription Period, each prospective investor must complete and execute the Subscription Form and submit it to the Administrator along with the applicable documentation in original or certified form (prospective investors should refer to the appendix of the Subscription Form for a list of the relevant due diligence documentation) and procure that subscription amounts in cleared funds are received by the Administrator no later than 10.00am (Oman local time) one (1) Business Day prior to the relevant Valuation Day. The Administrator shall issue the units on the same Valuation Day at the end of the day by applying the preceding day's NAV per Unit and will send a written record of the subscription to the relevant Subscriber. Subscription Forms together with subscription funds not received by the specified time on the preceding Valuation Day will be passed over for processing on the next occurring Valuation Day.

Rejection of Applications

The Administrator may reject any Subscription Form, which does not comply with the requirements set out on page 53 of the Prospectus (Acceptance of the applications for subscription) which apply mutatis mutandis to applications for subscription of Units during the Continuous Offer Period once the Fund has reopened for continuous subscription and redemption of Units.

Refund of subscription applications received after the Initial Subscription Period

The Administrator shall effect all refunds for subscription applications received after the Initial Subscription Period within three (3) Business Days from the relevant Valuation Day.

Clarifications and complaints

Subscribers that apply for allotment of Units during the Continuous Offer Period may contact the office of the Administrator (address as provided in the Prospectus) for clarifications or registration of complaints.

Subsequent Subscription Fee

Subscription for Units during the Continuous Offer Period shall carry a subscription fee of up to 2% of the NAV plus any applicable VAT and taxes. This subscription fee shall be charged to the Subscriber at the discretion of the Investment Manager or the Management Body in full or in part.

Minimum and Maximum Subscription after Initial Issue

The minimum subscription (exclusive of Subscription fees and any applicable VAT and taxes) for all subsequent subscriptions during the Continuous Offer Period shall be R.O. 500 per Subscriber for existing Unitholders and R.O. 2,000 for new Subscribers after the Initial Subscription Period and in multiples of R.O. 100. There shall be no maximum limit on Subscription.

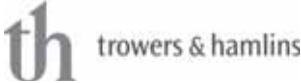
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IRAN

Foreign minister makes phone call

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister on Tuesday made a phone call with Ali Baqri, acting in-charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the call, Sayyid Badr offered his condolences on the death of Dr. Ibrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hossein Amir abdollahian, Foreign Affairs Minister and the delegation that accompanied them.

He expressed the Sultanate of



Oman's solidarity with Iran in these hard times. -ONA

CABLE

HM sends greetings to Yemen

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Dr. Rashad Al Alimi, Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council of the Republic of Yemen on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to President Dr. Rashad Al Alimi. His Majesty also prayed to Allah the almighty for the Yemeni people to realise their aspirations. -ONA

REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

HM receives written message

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a written message from Gen. Abdul Fattah Al Burhan, Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council in the Republic of Sudan. The message deals with relations between Oman and Sudan.

It was handed over to Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister when he received in Muscat today Envoy of the Chairman of Sudan's Sovereignty Council Hussein Awad, Sudanese acting Minister of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the bilateral relations and means of promoting them in various areas to serve the



joint interests.

They also touched on the developments in Sudan and stressed the importance of the efforts made to make dialogue and wisdom prevail for the supreme interests of the Sudanese people and realising their aspirations of security, stability and development.

The meeting was attended by a number of officials from both sides. -ONA

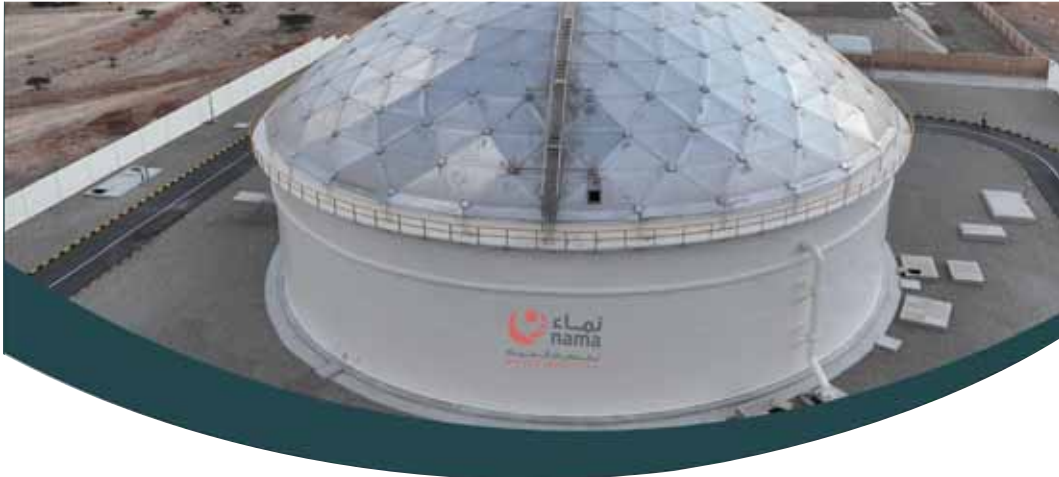
ROYAL ORDERS

Health ministry begins to distribute blood sugar electronic sensors

MUSCAT: In implementation of the Royal orders of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Ministry of Health began to distribute electronic blood sugar sensors and insulin pumps to Omani children with Type 1 diabetes from among those aged below 18 years.

These highly advanced devices allow accurate monitoring that

helps diminish the symptoms resulting from blood sugar deficiencies. Although Type 1 diabetes has no cure, but it can be controlled in children, to reduce the occurrence of the ailment's serious complications. Modern technologies used in the devices improve the quality of life of diabetic children and help them lead normal lives. - ONA



TENDER NOTICE

Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company (NAMA WATER SERVICES) hereby announces the following Tenders: -

Tender No.	Tender No.	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Sale Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
T/2635969/2024	Call off Contract for Supplying of Packaging materials for Kala Compost	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	6/6/2024	1/7/2024
T/2635962/2024	Consultancy Services for Design and Construction Supervision of Water Supply System to Wadi Mistal in Nakhal Wilayat	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 1500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	6/6/2024	8/7/2024
T/2529954/2024	Contracts Management Services for Nama Water Services Capital Projects	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 1500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	6/6/2024	1/7/2024

The tender document can be purchased from Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) e-tendering page (Supplier Login) from the date of publication of this announcement. The applicants shall pay the tender fee through electronic payment gateway through Supplier Login.

Applicants who are not registered with Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) shall register from <https://owwsc.nama.om/Business-with-Us/Vendor-Registration> to have the login credentials of 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). All participating Companies shall submit a Bid Bond of 1% of the bid value in a sealed envelope 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.

Bid Bond must be obtained from a Bank registered in the Sultanate of Oman and it should be addressed in favour of Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services). 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 or Email to: tender@owwsc.nama.om



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Oman to showcase tourism prospects at UN conference

The opening ceremony will be held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Taimour Asa'ad Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the CBO



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism will host on Wednesday the 50th meeting of the UN Tourism Regional Commission for the Middle East and the Conference on “Investing in Tourism: Opportunities and Challenges in Sustainable Financing”.

The opening ceremony will be held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Taimour Asa'ad Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO).

Salim Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism pointed out that Oman's hosting of the meeting and the conference is considered an opportunity to promote Oman's tourism features and products.

This also reflects the position of the Omani tourism sector in the Middle East and internationally.

Exchange expertise

The hosting of the meeting and the conference, Al Mahrouqi affirmed, will contribute to promoting Oman as a destination that attracts international meetings and conferences. The hosting is also a chance to exchange expertise in this field. -ONA

Foreign ministry officials offer condolences at Iran's Embassy



MUSCAT: A number of officials from the Foreign Ministry on Tuesday offered their condolences at the Iranian Embassy in Muscat on the death of Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the delegation that accompanied him in a helicopter crash in Iran's north-western province of East Azerbaijan.

The officials were received at the embassy by Mousa Farhang, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Sultanate of Oman, and members of the Iranian diplomatic mission.

They expressed their sincere condolences and sympathy to the embassy members, as well as the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

They commended the role of the late President of the Republic and his Minister of Foreign Affairs in strengthening the bonds of fraternity and developing relations between Oman and Iran.



They also affirmed the strength of Omani-Iranian bilateral relations.

The Iranian ambassador expressed deep thanks and appreciation for the gesture of the Foreign Ministry, hoping that relations between the two countries would continue to grow and prosper.

At the conclusion of the visit, Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, signed the Condolences Register.

He wrote expressions of sympathy on behalf of the Foreign Ministry, praying to the Almighty Allah to bestow mercy and forgiveness on the late Iranian president and the delegation that accompanied him. He also expressed wishes of security and prosperity for Iran. -ONA

COMMENTARY

Oman a natural partner for Turkiye in all aspects, from culture to defence

By Bilal Bilici

THE HISTORIC TIES between Oman and Turkiye date back to the times of the Seljuk and Ottoman Empires.

Oman is a country that emphasises the importance of dialogue and peace, which made the country's foreign policy exemplary for the global audience.

As two modern states, Türkiye and Oman have enjoyed friendly relations since establishing diplomatic ties in 1973.

The dialogue that flourished during the period of Late Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimur is further developing under the reign of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

Oman, led by Sultan Qaboos for the past 50 years, stands as a beacon of stability.

Since its foundation, Oman has experienced significant economic development, transitioning from a predominantly agrarian society to a modern economy.

Under the wise leadership of Late Sultan Qaboos, the country invested heavily in infrastructure, education, and healthcare, laying the foundation for sustained growth.

Hence, the visionary, confident, peaceful, and humble strategy of Sultan Qaboos placed Oman on the international map, especially in the role of diplomacy, and laid the groundwork for future prospects.

Turkiye has been a bridge between the West and the East, serving as the crossroads of civilisations.

As a NATO member, Turkiye boasts the second-largest military within the alliance.

Furthermore, as a G-20 member, and a long-term partner and a candidate for EU membership, Turkiye possesses a robust economy that has consistently ranked among the top 20 economies for decades.

Since its foundation, Turkiye has been able to turn itself a regional powerhouse and an industry-based economy, in which the Turkish defence industry over the recent years, have had major achievements and reduced dependency on foreign arms imports.

Since the onset of the Ukrainian conflict, while performing an exemplary role in mediation and active diplomacy between Russia and Ukraine, Turkiye has been able to balance its position without siding with any bloc.



Turkiye is among the few countries in the world that are able to engage in dialogue and establish channels of communication with both parties, bringing them to the table.

For example, it is highly valued when Oman played a pivotal role in de-escalating tensions and laying the groundwork for the historic JCPOA agreement in 2015 involving Iran, the P5+1, and the European Union.

One of Sultan Qaboos's aims was to find a balance between modernisation and tradition while preserving the Omani identity and Islam.

By maintaining neutrality, Sultan Qaboos enabled Oman to avoid getting involved in endless wars and to stay away from the erratic and irrational political competitions that have led to messy and complicated entanglements in the region.

His Majesty continues to enhance this vision. Basically, there have been no winners in wars, particularly in the Middle East region.

Despite being home to various religious sects and tribes, Oman boasts an international reputation for being an ideal model of coexistence, tolerance, and harmony.

These values and principles make Oman a natural partner for Turkiye in all aspects, from culture to defence.

The trade volume between Oman and Turkiye has surpassed 2 billion USD and holds even greater potential for growth in the future.

Given that both countries have complementary sectors, it would be essential to consider that both nations would have much to gain from a Free Trade Agreement.

Recently, in September 2023, Turkiye and the UAE commenced an FTA, marking a clear acceleration in bilateral ties.

A similar roadmap can be followed with Oman.

Turkiye and Oman have complementary economies, not competing.

While Oman also has an FTA with the United States, which Turkiye does not have, certain industries can turn this into an opportunity as semi-finished goods can be processed in Oman and find alternative markets in North America.

Trade between two nations which is currently limited to certain sectors and products, should be diversified to reach the preliminary target of a 5 billion US dollars trade volume.

Oman's top exports to Turkiye include fertilizers, chemicals, minerals, metals and petrochemicals, while Turkiye's top exports to Oman are grains, cereals, machines, and chemicals.

For overall, Oman's exports and imports Turkiye ranks in the top 10 position.

On the other hand, in March 2024, Turkiye and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) signed a deal to launch negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The pact would lead to one of the world's largest free trade areas, between Turkiye and members of the GCC, with a total value of \$2.4 trillion.

The recent LNG (liquefied natural gas) deal between Turkiye and Oman, in which Oman will export 1 million tons of LNG per year for 10 years starting from 2025, is a strong indicator of Turkiye's desire to diversify its dependency on natural gas from Iran and Russia.

Oman's LNG exports to Turkiye could further enhance bilateral relations.

However, since energy prices are critical for Turkish end-users and industries, this deal has to be a win-win for both parties.

In recent years, particularly in the defense industry, we have witnessed the signing of several deals between Turkiye and Oman. The HAVELSAN-Masireh International joint

venture is an excellent example of the cooperation between our countries.

Turkish defense companies such as TUSAŞ and Baykar can have an opportunity to market drones to Oman, as other GCC countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar have been lucrative clients.

Cultural exchange and people-to-people interactions are also vital aspects of our bilateral relations.

Turkish television dramas have gained immense popularity not only around the globe but also in Oman, with millions of Omanis having fond memories and experience of watching the Turkish soap operas such as Harreem Al Sultan, Fatima, Kurtulus and Kuzey.

According to the Oman News Agency, more than 130,000 Omani tourists visited Turkiye in 2022.

In December 2023, Turkiye lifted the visa requirement for Omani citizens, which will facilitate travel between the two countries and enhance social contact among people who share millennium-long historical, religious, and cultural ties.

Both Turkiye and Oman have played crucial intermediary roles in bridging Iran and the US, utilizing backdoor diplomacy, particularly evident during the Iranian nuclear deal negotiations.

Both Oman and Turkiye can help with de-escalation with the ongoing conflict in Gaza and play a constructive role.

Both countries are aware and have capabilities to prevent the spill-over tensions from Gaza war in the region. It would not be impossible to imagine if Oman one day plays an instrumental role in Syria as this problem remains as a frozen and complicated conflict.

The future presents immense untapped potential that the two countries shall strive to realize.

From economic cooperation to cultural exchange and diplomatic initiatives, there are numerous opportunities for further collaboration and mutual benefit. It is imperative that both nations remain committed to realizing this potential and work together towards a future of shared success, peace and prosperity.

Bilal Bilici, is a leading member of the Turkish Parliament (Adana Province), and also Foreign Affairs Committee Member.

27TH MEETING



Regulation of ads on social media sites discussed

DOHA: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Information, on Tuesday participated in a preparatory session for the 27th meeting of GCC Ministers of Information.

Oman's delegation at the preparatory session, held in Doha, Qatar, was headed by Mohammed Said Al Balushi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information.

The officials looked into several topics on the agenda, namely establishing regulatory measures for electronic commercial advertising on social media sites and platforms in member states; drafting a public awareness plan for the protection of morals and

social upbringing inculcation of the GCC ethical identity.

It also touched on developing an initiative to ensure “digital safety” for children in member states.

The meeting also discussed the production of a joint radio drama and the compilation of radio programmes targeting the youth segment and exploring their interests in the fields of technology, artificial intelligence and digital economy.

The officials also considered organising a joint TV broadcast that coincides with the upcoming 45th session of the GCC Supreme Council.

-ONA

CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Expatriate imprisoned

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An expatriate has been imprisoned for five months and will be deported from Oman for manufacturing smokeless chewing tobacco in the Wilayat of Mahdha in Al Buraimi, Con-

sumer Protection Authority (CPA), said. The Court of First Instance in the Wilayat of Mahdha recently issued a court ruling against a worker for violating the Consumer Protection Law and the prohibition on the circulation of chewing tobacco.

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MEETINGS

Royal Office Minister receives French, Austrian ambassadors



MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received in his office on Tuesday Veronique Aulagnon, Ambassador of the French Republic to the Sultanate of Oman, to bid her farewell at the end of her tour of duty.

During the meeting, Gen. Al Nu'amani thanked the ambassador for the efforts she exerted to promote areas of cooperation between Oman and France, wishing her success in future endeavours. In her turn, the ambassador expressed her thanks for the coop-



eration extended to her during her duty in Oman. Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani also received in his office Christophe Ceska, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to the Sultanate of Oman. During the meeting, the two

sides reviewed march of the co-operation relations between the two countries and underlined the friendship relations between Oman and Austria. They also touched on a set of current regional and international issues. -ONA

INDIAN SCIENCE FORUM

ISF Annual Science Fiesta concludes

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The two-day Annual Science Fiesta 2024 organised by the Indian Science Forum (ISF) saw the participation of hundreds of students held at the campus of National University for Science and Technology, Al Hail.

The Rolling Trophy for the overall performance this year went to the Indian School Bausher.

One of the main features of the annual event is Sastrapratibha and this year saw participation of close to 3000 students from 21 Indian schools across the Sultanate of Oman.

The Chairman of ISF, Dr J Retnakumar said, "Every year the Annual Science Fiesta will come up with topics that is important to the society as this year we had Environmental Stewardship as the main theme for all our competitions. We are extremely happy to see the enthusiastic participation by the students and support of the schools and teachers and the message conveyed in this science fiesta 2024 is everyone should become an environment steward for sustainability."

The Indian Science Forum, a pioneering organisation dedicated to promoting scientific knowledge and fostering talent among youth, every year invites distinguished keynote speakers with science background and this year the chief guest was Dr Muralee Thumarukudy, Director of the G20 Global Land Initiative Coordination Office of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification



(UNCCD).

The two guests of honour were Faisal Ali Ibrahim al Balushi, Muscat Municipality Council member and Rumaitha al Busaidi, Vice President of Environment Society of Oman.

The ISF encourages a passion for science among students of all ages by conducting a series of engaging competitions and activities such as the Shastra Pratibha contest, ISF Igniter-inter-school science quiz, science debate, on-the-spot presentations, digital symposiums, Photography and science exhibitions.

Dr. Muralee who holds a PhD in Environmental Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, is also an Alumnus of the International Leadership Academy of the United Nations University and has also attended University of California for the Beaher's Environmental Leadership Programme. He has been involved in dealing with crisis disasters in this century. Dr Muralee has dealt with Environmental issues

associated with conflicts and has also dealt with environmental issues caused by Tsunamis, Floods, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Oil Spill and exploration of ammunition dumps around the world.

A message he conveyed to the students was, "The world is getting to be better place and primarily due to science. So what I am asking the students primarily is to do as much as you use science as a tool to experiment as well as seek employment, keep the scientific temper alive through out your life because once you lose the scientific temper we lose all the achievements humanity has made in the last few hundred years."

Rumaitha Al Busaidi an environmental advocate working on sustainable solutions to climate change said, "Today, as we gather at this Science Fiesta, we celebrate not just the pursuit of knowledge but also our commitment to harnessing that knowledge responsibly. Walking through the exhibition area earlier, I was inspired by the ingenious projects on display.

Innovations from biodegradable materials to advanced AI applications for conserving our precious resources show that our community is ready to lead the way in sustainable innovation.

Creating sustainable solutions that address the urgent needs of our planet. This responsibility brings us to a pivotal question that I urge each of you to consider: "What would it take you to be a good ancestor?" It's a question that calls us to reflect not just on what we achieve but on the legacy we leave behind," she urged.

Suresh AM, the General Secretary, announced the names of the Sastra Pratibhas, and Latha Sreejith, the General Coordinator, revealed the names of the A+ and A grade winners of the Sastra Pratibha Contest. Sabyasachi Choudhury and Atharv Rahul Dehedkar from Indian School Al Ghubra (Senior Category) and Atharv Sinha and Dhivyadharsan Varadharajan from Indian School Muladha (Junior Category) were the champions of the Inter-School Science Quiz.

T Bhaskaran, Vice Chairman of Indian Science Forum delivered the Vote of Thanks and said that since the number of events were more, the celebration has been spread over two full days.

"We fully appreciate the unstinted support of the University in holding this prestigious scientific event in their campus. And also a special thanks to teachers and parents," he said.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman



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TENDER BOARD

Contracts worth over OMR584mn awarded in 2024 first quarter



MUSCAT: The Secretariat General of the Tender Board said that, during the first quarter of 2024, a total of 3,056 tenders were offered through Esnad electronic bidding system.

The tenders, floated by establishments bound by the Tender Law, have a lumpsum value of more than OMR584 million.

The tenders deal with the implementation of development and service projects in different governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

The projects cited in the tenders include the expansion of the Muscat Expressway, the establishment of Al Falah Hospital in the Al Sharqiyah South Governorate, the dualisation of a road linking the wilayats of "Al Kamil Wal'Wafi, Jalan Bani Bu Hassan and Jalan Bani Bu Ali", the unification of the Municipal System, the establishment of a commodity market in the Wilayat of Sinaw (North Al Sharqiyah Governorate) and the restoration of a road from Al Hazm to Al Washil in the Wilayat of A'Rustaq.

During the first quarter of 2024, twenty-two tenders were awarded until the end of the first quarter of 2024 to the tune of more than OMR136 million, compared to 20 tenders awarded during the corresponding period in 2023.

Eng. Badr Salim Al Maamari, Secretary-General of the Tender



Board, said that the Tender Board engaged in a drive to raise the efficiency of bidding procedures, develop models related to enhance local content in contracts and tenders, and follow up on the implementation of the same to ensure achieving local added value from spending on government projects and procurements. Al Maamari added that the drive also covers means of offering the best value and service and the application of up-to-date frameworks and methodologies. The overall aims is to achieve efficiency and speed in project implementation, reduce change orders and abide by approved financial budgets, he explained.

Al Maamari affirmed that efforts are underway to delegate business tasks to local companies and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in a way that enhances their presence efficiency in government projects. - ONA

MOTORSPORT

'Hope motorsports flourishes in Oman'

< FROM A1 "Oman is a very hospitable place and during the MENA Karting Cup, I was amazed at the passion of the fans, who came in large numbers to witness it. It reflects the love of the sports in Oman and this is what I hope will help the nation grow in motorsports," he added.

Omanis in FIA commissions Ben Sulayem suggested that in future there could be Omanis in FIA commissions and hoped motorsports flourishes in the country.

The FIA boss also toured the newly-built OAA facilities that also boasts of the first public shooting range.

He was taken on a tour by Brigadier (Retd) Salim Al Maskari, OAA board chairman, Brigadier Jamal Al Tai, OAA vice-chairman, and Suleiman Al Rawahi, OAA managing director.

The FIA chief also met His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, during the two-day visit.

Discussions held

Ben Sulayem held discussions with Khalfan bin Saeed Al Shueili, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, on the possibility of developing infrastructure for motorsport in Oman, including the establishment of more racetracks, and training facilities.

Later, the visiting official also held a meeting with Khalid bin Mohammed Al Zubair, Oman



Olympic Committee president.

OAA chairman Al Maskari said: "The visit of the FIA president to Oman demonstrates the world body's commitment to developing motorsport globally. Oman is a promising market for motorsport and aims to promote this sector in line with its ambitious vision for the future."

"This visit presents an opportunity to strengthen our international partnerships and will also help exchange ideas on development," he further added.



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OCHA appeals to UNSC to end the ‘humanitarian catastrophe’ in Gaza

The number of casualties continues to increase by the day, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs’ (OCHA) Operations and Advocacy Division stressed, adding that 1.1 million people face catastrophic levels of hunger and Gaza remains on the brink of famine

GAZA: Edem Wosornu, Director of at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs’ (OCHA) Operations and Advocacy Division, said in a briefing to the UN Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Rafah: “To be frank, we are running



out of words to describe what is happening in Gaza. We have described it as a catastrophe, a nightmare, as hell on earth. It is all of these, and worse.” Speaking at the briefing on behalf of Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Wosornu stressed that the “living conditions continue to deteriorate as a result of heavy fighting, particularly in Jabalaia and eastern Rafah, as well as Israeli bombardment from air, land and sea.”The number of casualties continues to increase by the day, she stressed, adding that 1.1 million people face catastrophic levels of hunger and Gaza remains on the brink of famine. Since October 2023, 75 percent of the population in Gaza – 1.7 million people – has been forcibly displaced within Gaza, many of them up to four or five times, including

as a result of repeated Israeli military-issued evacuation instructions, she said. “I must also emphasise, unequivocally, that persons forcibly displaced within or from Gaza must be guaranteed the right to voluntarily return, as international law demands.” “I must also emphasise, unequivocally, that persons forcibly displaced within or from Gaza must be guaranteed the right to voluntarily return, as international law demands.” stressed the Director of OCHA’s Operations and Advocacy Division. As the conflict persists and lives are threatened, civilians must be allowed to seek protection, she added. The toll of death, injury and destruction in Gaza is utterly unconscionable, she stressed, adding: “We demand that civilians, their housing and the vital infrastruc-

ture they depend on be protected, as international humanitarian law requires. All feasible precautions must be taken to avoid and minimise civilian harm.” She also underscored “the need for the facilitation of rapid, unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief into and within Gaza – also as a matter of international humanitarian law.” All available access points must be open and kept open for a sustained period to allow aid to enter at scale, said Wosornu. She also affirmed the need to be assured of the protection of humanitarian and UN staff, all of whom are working under extreme conditions in Gaza. The OCHA official further emphasised the need for adequate funding, particularly for UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which he stressed is the central pillar of our aid operation. – Wafa

Spain and Ireland poised to back Palestinian state

BRUSSELS: As more protesters voice their support for Palestinians in Gaza in streets around the world, the UN General Assembly has expanded the rights of Palestine within the global body. Now, five EU members are planning to extend their solidarity to the population of Gaza by officially recognising Palestine as a sovereign country. This is seen as a step toward the two-state solution, which is looking increasingly less likely for the Israeli government as it presses ahead with its offensive in Rafah. After the October 7 attacks, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that Israeli forces would destroy Hamas that rules Gaza. Israel intends to maintain long-term control over the territory. **Growing pressure** Over time, however, it has faced growing international pressure owing to its harsh military approach, which has claimed the lives of more

than 35,500 people, according to Palestinian sources, and precipitated a disastrous humanitarian situation in the territory. **Symbolic recognition of Palestinian state** Spain’s modern ties to the Middle East and North Africa, as well as Turkey, date back to the 1939-1975 Franco dictatorship, when governments in the region kept the country from total economic and political isolation as Europe divided into the Western and Eastern blocs following World War II. When the dictatorship ended in 1975, Spain established economic relations with Israel followed by diplomatic relations in 1986. In the years that followed, Spain established itself as a respected mediator between Israel and the Arab world. The 1991 Madrid Peace Conference, for instance, is seen as having laid the groundwork for the 1993 Oslo Accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. – nw

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Schengen visa fees increased by 12%

NEW DELHI: The European Commission has announced a global increase in short-stay Schengen visa fees, effective from June 11. This decision will see the cost of Schengen visas (visa type C) rise by 12 per cent, impacting travellers planning to visit Europe. Under the new fee structure, the cost for adult applicants will be Euro 90, up from the current Euro 80. For children aged 6 to below 12 years, the fee will increase from Euro 40 to Euro 45. This hike applies to visa applications submitted worldwide. The Schengen visa permits travel across 27 European countries, including popular tourist destinations such as France, Germany, Italy, and Spain. The fee adjustment aims to align with the increasing costs of processing visas and maintaining the security of the Schengen area. The last fee update was implemented in February 2020, when the adult visa fee was increased



to Euro 80 from Euro 60. The European Commission justified the latest hike by citing inflation and the need to cover administrative costs associated with the visa process, which includes background checks, data processing, and maintaining secure entry systems. For adults, the new fee will be Euro 90, and for children aged 6 to below 12, it will be Euro 45. These increases are part of a broader effort to ensure that the costs of visa processing and security measures are adequately covered. Applicants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Belarus will pay Euro 35, and applicants from Cabo Verde will pay Euro 60. – ANI

IRAN

Thousands attend Raisi’s funeral procession

TABRIZ: Thousands of people walked through the streets of the northwestern Iranian city of Tabriz on Tuesday in a funeral procession for President Ebrahim Raisi and seven members of his entourage after their deaths in a helicopter crash. Raisi and the country’s foreign minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, along with other officials, were found dead Monday hours after their helicopter crashed in fog in mountainous terrain, with no cause for the incident so far offered by Iranian authorities. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has ultimate authority in Iran, has declared five days of national mourning for the late president. Khamenei also picked Vice President Mohammad Mokher, 68, to assume interim duties ahead of elections that state media say will be held on June 28. **How is Iran mourning Raisi?** Raisi’s body will be taken from Tabriz to the Shiite pilgrimage city of Qom on Tuesday before being moved to the capital, Tehran. Khamenei is scheduled to



hold prayers at a farewell ceremony in Tehran on Tuesday night, with major processions planned to begin on Wednesday morning. The body of Raisi will then be taken to Southern Khorasan province on Thursday morning before arriving in his hometown of Mashhad, where the burial is

to take place on Thursday evening after funerary rites. **Fatal helicopter crash** The fatal helicopter crash occurred after Raisi, 63, had attended the inauguration of a joint dam project on the Aras river in a ceremony with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, meanwhile, offered his condolences to Iran over Raisi’s death. “Our condolences go to the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the families of those killed in the crash,” Scholz said in a message addressed to Iran’s Vice President Mohammad Mokher. – DW

LONDON TO SINGAPORE FLIGHT



1 dead amid ‘severe’ turbulence on Singapore Airlines flight

BANGKOK: One person was killed, and more than 30 others were injured, after a Singapore Airlines flight from London to Singapore encountered “severe turbulence,” the airline said on Tuesday. A 73-year-old British man died in the incident, likely from a heart attack, Bangkok airport authorities said a press conference. Seven other critically injured people suffered head injuries, they added.

The Boeing 777-300 aircraft, which was carrying 211 passengers and 18 crew members, was diverted to Bangkok, Thailand, where it landed at 3.45pm local time, according to an airline statement. “Singapore Airlines offers its deepest condolences to the family of the deceased,” Singapore Airlines said. “Our priority is to provide all possible assistance to all passengers and crew on board

the aircraft.” It added that it was working with the Thai local authorities to provide the necessary medical assistance. **Aircraft dropped 6,000 feet in five minutes, data shows** A passenger who spoke to the Reuters news agency said turbulence led to those not wearing seatbelts hitting overhead cabins. – DW



Royal Oman Police

ANNOUNCEMENT

Royal Oman Police – Directorate of Public Relations and Security Information – announces a public auction to sell horses, at the Mounted Police Headquarter, on **Sunday 02 June 2024, at 04:00 pm, in Al Wattayah, the Wilayat of Muttrah.**

Horses may be inspected during the period from **26 to 30 May 2024 from 08:00 am to 12:00 pm.**

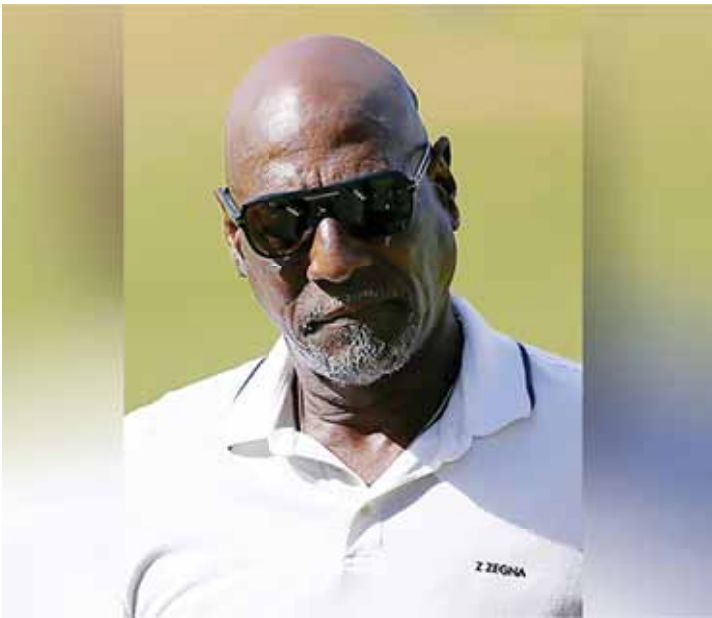
The successful bidder must abide by the following terms and conditions:

- The buyer must pay the horses’ value and the auctioneer fees at 3% by e-payment immediately after the auction.
- The buyer must transport the horses within a period of 3 days from the selling date; otherwise, they shall pay a fine of **RO 5/-** per each day of delay.

Pakistan eye Richards as team mentor for T20

According to the sources, the PCB is holding a conversation with the former West Indies batting maestro

LAHORE [PAKISTAN]: With the T20 World Cup on the brink of commencement, Pakistan are eying to secure the services of West Indies icon Viv Richards as team mentor for the marquee event. The World Cup is ten days away from beginning in the USA and the West Indies. The event will be historic as 20 teams will participate in the tournament for the first time since its inception. Ahead of the tournament, Pakistan are looking to rope in Richards as the team mentor according to Geo News sources. According to the sources, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is holding a conversation with the former West Indies batting maestro.



The former West Indies star boasts vast experience as well as the knowledge of playing the Caribbean. It is also believed that PCB's decision to bring in Richards is inspired by the 72-year-old's impact in the Pakistan Super League. Richards serves as a mentor for the PSL franchise Quetta Gladiators. However, PCB face a major challenge in bringing in Richards due to his existing media commitments for the event. Pakistan have completely re-

vamped their white-ball set-up since the departure of former director of cricket Mohammad Hafeez earlier this year. Last month, former South Africa cricketer Gary Kirsten was announced as the head coach for limited overs cricket. It was under his reign, that Pakistan's arch-rival India lifted the 2011 World Cup trophy on their home soil and ended their 28 years of wait. India also became the number-one team in the ICC Test rankings during his stint.

Kirsten recently arrived in Leeds and linked up with the 'Men in Green' ahead of their four-match T20I series against England.

The 56-year-old will look to inspire the Pakistan team to the World Cup glory. Their upcoming four-match series against England will help them prepare for the upcoming T20 World Cup.

The T20I series will begin on May 22 in Headingley Carnegie and will conclude on May 30 in London.

Out of 19 teams, Pakistan are the only team that hasn't announced their 15-player squad.

For the highly anticipated tournament, Pakistan are placed in Group A alongside the USA, India, Canada and Ireland.

The Men in Green will kick off their campaign against the USA on June 6 and will face arch-rival India on June 9 at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, New York.

Pakistan squad for the England series: Babar Azam (C), Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Rizwan, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usman Khan. -ANI

ICONIC MIDFIELDER

Real Madrid's talisman Kroos set to retire after Euro 2024



NEW DELHI: Real Madrid's iconic midfielder Toni Kroos is set to hang his boots after the conclusion of the upcoming Euro 2024.

Kroos will have his last dance on the football field for Germany in the UEFA Euro which will begin on June 15.

The 34-year-old earned plaudits for a decade during his time in Spain with Real Madrid. He will appear for the Los Blancos one last time in the UEFA Champions League final against Borussia Dortmund at the Wembley Stadium, London on June 1.

The German star has decided to not renew his contract with the Spanish Giants which will bring an end to his 10-year stay with the club.

The talismanic midfielder took to Instagram and penned a heartfelt message as he prepares to bring the curtains down on his illustrious career.

"July 17th, 2014 - the day of my presentation at Real Madrid, the day that changed my life. My life as a footballer - but especially as a person. It was the start of a new chapter at the biggest club in the world. After 10 years, at the end of the season, this chapter comes to an end. I will never forget that insolent successful time! I would particularly like to thank everyone that welcomed me with an open heart and trusted me," Kroos said in his post on Instagram.

"But especially I would like to thank you, dear Madridistas, for your affection and your love from the first day until the last one. At the same time, this decision

means that my career as an active footballer will end this summer after the Euro championship. As I have always said: Real Madrid is and will be my last club. I am happy and proud, that in my mind I found the right timing for my decision and that I could choose it by my own. My ambition was always to finish my career at the peak of my performance level. From now on there is only one leading thought: a por la 15!!! HALA MADRID Y NADA MAS!" Kroos concluded.

In a career that saw him leave an everlasting impression in the world of football for Real Madrid, his accolades speak about his prowess.

He has won a whopping 21 trophies at Real Madrid since making a switch from Bundesliga giants Bayern Munich in 2014.

His remarkable tally includes four Champions Leagues and four La Liga titles. He still has the opportunity to add to his mouth-watering tally.

His last game for Madrid against Dortmund in this season's Champions League could see his club career end on a fairytale note.

Kroos has etched his name as the greatest player in Real's history. He has netted 28 goals and registered 98 assists in 463 appearances for the club across all competitions.

In the international circuit, Kroos was a part of the German team that won the 2014 World Cup. He had announced his international retirement after the Euro 2021. He went on to miss the Qatar World Cup in 2022. -ANI

Rashford, Henderson left out of England squad

LONDON: England on Tuesday named their 33-player provisional squad for the upcoming Euro 2024 which included a couple of surprise omissions. Star forward Marcus Rashford and midfielder Jordan Henderson have been left out of the squad. With key players left out of the provisional squad, uncapped play-

ers who impressed in the recently concluded Premier League season have been included. Rashford has been a key England player under Southgate. He has been named in the two previous World Cup squads in 2018 and 2022. He was also a part of England's last Euro squad in 2021. However, in the recently con-

cluded Premier League season, the 26-year-old netted just eight goals. Along with Rashford, Henderson also featured in the aforementioned three tournaments. However, he had a season that led to a lot of criticism after he made a switch from Saudi Pro League side Al Ettifaq from Liverpool.

In January, he went on to make another switch. He moved to Ajax from Al Ettifaq which summed up his turbulent season. Uncapped stars Jarrad Branthwaite, Curtis Jones, Jarell Quansah and Adam Wharton have been named in the 33-player provisional squad. -ANI

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by July 2024 reaching \$84.22, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 98 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$85.20. - OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,778.88 points, down by 0.08 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.06 per cent at 449.09 points. Voltamp Energy, up 5.97 per cent, was the top gainer while Jazeera Steel Products, down 5.09 per cent, was the top loser.

Madayn aims to showcase diversity of Omani products in Saudi Arabia

Through participating at the Saudi Food Show, Madayn seeks to highlight incentives and facilities available to potential investors in its various industrial cities to a global audience



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), has commenced its participation at the Saudi Food Show 2024 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Held at Riyadh Front Exhibition and Convention Centre, the Sultanate is participating in Saudi Arabia's largest F&B sourcing event alongside 97 countries featuring over 1,000 F&B exhibitors. Dr Rashid Al Alawi, Investment Director at Madayn, emphasised the significance of the Sultanate's participation in the second edition of the Saudi Food Show, as it features an ideal platform to boost international trade relations, explore lucrative business opportunities, and highlight advancements in food industries, packaging, and processing. "The event plays a key

role in facilitating communication between Omani companies and key stakeholders from diverse markets, thereby encouraging collaboration and driving growth in the Sultanate's food industry," Al Alawi pointed out. Through participating at the Saudi Food Show, Madayn aims to showcase the quality and diversity of Omani goods as well as highlight the incentives and facilities available to potential investors in its various industrial cities to a global audience, and hence attract new investments with the ultimate objective of advancing the national economy and aligning with the primary goals of Oman Vision 2040. In addition to Madayn, the Sultanate's pavilion at the exhibition features the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, SMEs Development Authority, and Salah Free Zone. Additionally, leading Omani companies, factories and SMEs in the food industry are showcasing



their products at Saudi Food Show, including Areej Vegetable Oils and Derivatives, Al Bahja Group, Al Zain Poultry, Bayan Coffee, Dukan Al Asal, Omani Gulf Food Company, Overseas Food Indus-

tries, Ataya Trading and Industrial Company (Yamama), International Sea Food Company (Simak), in addition to several SMEs representing the food industry. The Omani companies have

the opportunity to introduce their products, showcase the advanced technologies underpinning their manufacturing processes, and acquaint themselves with the offerings and technologies of their

counterparts in the F&B sector in terms of production, packaging, and presentation. Moreover, Omani firms will actively pursue agents, contracts, and deals to expand their operations on a global scale.

CYBERSECURITY

Trend Micro elevates digital resilience, spearheads cybersecurity innovation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Trend Micro Incorporated (TYO: 4704; TSE: 4704), a global leader in cybersecurity, announced the findings of its 2023 annual cybersecurity report titled "Calibrating Expansion", on the sidelines of its participation at the 33rd edition of Comex Global Technology Show 2024 taking place from May 27 - 30, at Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre. The report revealed that the company effectively blocked and detected a significant number of threats worldwide, amounting to 161 billion threats on a global scale and 15 million threats specifically within Oman. As a diamond sponsor, Trend Micro will be showcasing its state-of-the-art security offerings, including On Prem AI Security for Sovereign and Private Cloud and the groundbreaking Trend Vision One meticulously crafted for businesses. This unified platform offers an innovative and robust approach to cybersecurity, surpassing traditional methods. It strengthens cyber resilience with Advanced XDR and AI capabilities, providing comprehensive ASRM. This integrated solution enables effective threat identification, response, and risk analysis through continuous discovery and automated mitigation actions. By harnessing these advanced technologies, organisations in Oman can bolster their cybersecurity defences, supporting digital transformation initiatives and driving sustainable growth across industries. In Oman, the company played a pivotal role in cybersecurity, with its solutions blocking and detecting over 3 million email threats and more than 2 million malicious URL victim attacks. Additionally, Trend Micro identified and stopped more than 8 million malware attacks, showcasing its effectiveness in safeguarding dig-

Its report revealed that the company effectively blocked and detected a significant number of threats worldwide, amounting to 161 billion threats on a global scale and 15 million threats specifically within Oman

ital assets in Sultanate of Oman. These recent figures indicate, that throughout the evolving threat landscape, organisations need to adopt multilayered solutions to be able to protect their operations against sophisticated attacks from cybercriminals. "In light of the rapidly evolving threat landscape in Oman's digital ecosystem, cybersecurity has emerged as a paramount concern for organisations, said Salah Suleiman, UAE & Oman Country Director, Trend Micro. "Our participation at events like Comex signify our unwavering dedication to cybersecurity, offering a robust platform to unveil our latest innovations. It also facilitates direct engagement with industry leaders, fostering invaluable collaborations and partnerships that drive innovation and enable cybersecurity resilience across Oman's dynamic digital landscape." As a part of its continued efforts to raise cybersecurity awareness, Trend Micro will be organising the Risk to Resilience (R2R) World Tour in Oman on June 4th. This strategic event not only reaffirms the company's commitment to aligning with Oman's Vision 2040 but also signifies our dedication to advancing cybersecurity excellence in the region.

WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Financial Service Authority's Bayanat portal qualifies for WSIS 2024 Prize

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Financial Service Authority's (FSA) Bayanat portal qualified for the prize of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in the best five projects for the C7 Business category after FSA's participation in the competition for the prize. The portal was qualified after obtaining a high number of votes. FSA will take part in the prize announcement ceremony to be held in Geneva, Switzerland at the end of this month. Bayanat is a disclosure portal for financial and non-financial information of public joint stock companies and investment funds and other entities regulated by the Financial Services Authority and



is considered one of the key electronic projects of the FSA within its endeavours to achieve the objects of its strategic plan to upgrade the securities market in line with the national priorities of Oman Vision

2040 in digital transformation. FSA participated in the competition to highlight the digital projects that aim to ease access to information and to attract domestic and international investors in addition to representing the Sultanate of Oman in such initiatives. The portal was created by FSA to enhance transparency and efficiency in the financial markets which reflects on enhancing the confidence of market participants inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman besides enhancing the legislative and technological infrastructure related to disclosure processes of the issuers of securities and insurance companies and brokers to cope with the objects of Oman Vision 2040 with regard to digital transformation which represent

one of the national priorities. Bayanat is a digital analytical portal for disclosure of both financial and non-financial information and data of issuers of securities using XBRL language and provides safe and fast technology for disclosure reports as it standardises the concepts of financial information and disclosure elements for easy access by all the parties to furnish accurate, reliable and timely financial information providing the ability to conduct the required comparison, studies and analysis in an efficient electronic way. XBRL transfers financial statements and data using IFRS Taxonomies and coding readable by both readers and computers for easy access to the information therein and to compare the contents.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

Maharat training programme aims to enhance skills of new employees

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) launched Maharat programme that aims to enhancing skills of new employees (fresh graduates) to raise their awareness of the applicable laws and regulations as well as motivate them to compete. Additionally, this training programme aims at promoting positivity in the work environment and preparing the new employees to deal with different conditions by focusing on communication, planning, time management, teamwork, emotional intelligence and writing skills. Maharat programme, which will continue for three weeks, will work on enhancing the skills and competencies of the new employees to ensure a fruitful performance that will benefit the FSA. The latter has always endeavoured



to develop its human resources by helping them in gaining many skills such as creative thinking, problem solving and making deci-

sions, to enable them to work more effectively and efficiently. The programme's plan divides employees into groups and in-

cludes group consultation and guidance, with participation of certified trainers from the inside and the outside of Oman.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Voltamp Energy, up 5.97 per cent, was the top gainer while Jazeera Steel Products, down 5.09 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,778.88 points, down by 0.08 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.06 per cent at 449.09 points. Voltamp Energy, up 5.97 per cent, was the top gainer while, Jazeera Steel Products, down 5.09 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Ahli Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 696 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR5.44 million, with more than 21.48 million shares changing hands. Out of 52 traded securities, 16 advanced, 19 declined, and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR308,000 while domestic investors were net buyers for OMR237,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR71,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,750.61 points, up 0.27 per cent. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Al Omaniya Financial Services, Oman Arab Bank, Global Financial Investments, Sohar International Bank were up by 4.29

per cent, 3.66 per cent, 3.08 per cent, 2.90 per cent, 1.48 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Madina Takaful, Al Sharqia Investment, Muscat Finance, Dhofar Insurance, Bank Dhofar were down by 4.88 per cent, 2.60 per cent, 2.04 per cent, 1.91 per cent, 1.29 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,862.48 points, up 0.07 per cent. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Oman Cables Industry, Al Maha Ceramics, Galfar Engineering were up by 5.97 per cent, 3.67 per cent, 1.82 per cent, 0.61 per cent respectively. Prices of Jazeera Steel Products, Oman Chromite, Raysut Cement, Gulf Mushroom Products were down by 5.09 per cent, 3.49 per cent, 2.27 per cent, 0.45 per cent respectively. Services Index was down by 0.3% before closing at 1,809.39 points. Prices of Muscat Desalination, Ooredoo, Al Maha Marketing were up by 2.67 per cent, 1.00 per cent, 0.98 per cent respectively. Prices of Renaissance Services, Phoenix Power, National Gas, Al Suwadi Power, Abraj Energy were down by 2.05 per cent, 1.64 per cent, 1.27 per cent, 1.25 per cent, 1.00 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,778.88	4,778.88	4,778.88	4,782.80	-3.92	-0.08
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,750.61	7,750.61	7,750.61	7,729.85	20.76	0.27
Industry Index	5,862.48	5,862.48	5,862.48	5,858.10	4.37	0.07
Services Index	1,809.39	1,809.39	1,809.39	1,814.75	-5.36	-0.30
MSX Shariah Index	449.09	449.09	449.09	449.37	-0.28	-0.06
MSX TR INDEX	6,630.89	6,630.89	6,630.89	6,636.33	-5.45	-0.08
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,786.00	8,786.00	8,786.00	8,762.47	23.53	0.27
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,763.90	6,763.90	6,763.90	6,758.86	5.05	0.07
SERVICES TR IDX	2,090.71	2,090.71	2,090.71	2,096.91	-6.20	-0.30
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,068.20	0.90	0.08

Trading Summary

Volume		Turnover		Trades		Market Cap		Up		Down		Equal		Sec. Traded	
21,482,036		5,439,247		696		24,410,357,235		16		19		17		52	

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, MAY 21

ISIN

SECURITY NAME

VOLUME

TURNOVER

TRADES

OPEN PRICE

HIGH

LOW

CLOSE PR

PREV. CLOSE

DIFF BD

DIFF %

LAST PD

LAST BD

LAST OFFER

PAV VALUE

MARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	908,000	62,683	18	0.069	0.071	0.069	0.071	0.069	0.002	2.899	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.100	14,200,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	2,476,640	337,558	46	0.135	0.138	0.135	0.137	0.135	0.002	1.481	0.137	0.000	0.000	0.100	764,082,739
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	183,365	54,911	13	0.289	0.302	0.289	0.302	0.289	0.003	1.003	0.302	0.000	0.000	0.100	196,585,157
OM0000004183	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	210,000	58,170	8	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.276	0.001	0.362	0.277	0.000	0.000	0.100	450,387,140
OM0000004152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	20,000	2,280	3	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.100	17,100,000
OM0000004153	OMINVEST	45,867	17,200	3	0.375	0.375	0.375	0.375	0.375	0.000	0.000	0.375	0.000	0.000	0.100	250,637,035
OM0000004149	OMAN CEMENT	30,500	11,285	5	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.000	0.000	0.370	0.000	0.000	0.100	122,422,903
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	3,800	684	2	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.000	0.000	0.180	0.000	0.000	0.100	39,600,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	94,860	5,502	3	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.100	20,655,383
OM0000004735	SEMBOOR SALALAH	114,815	11,606	9	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.100	97,366,339
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	9748	751	2	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.100	51,965,332
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	766,106	109,176	90	0.143	0.144	0.142	0.144	0.144	0.000	0.000	0.144	0.000	0.000	0.100	823,609,844
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	284,544	276,519	67	1.050	1.052	1.044	1.046	1.049	-0.003	-0.286	1.046	0.000	0.000	0.100	784,500,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	628,320	163,383	29	0.261	0.261	0.260	0.260	0.261	-0.001	-0.383	0.260	0.000	0.000	0.100	1,851,663,236
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	775,048	231,153	26	0.299	0.300	0.298	0.298	0.301	-0.003	-0.997	0.298	0.000	0.000	0.100	229,519,600
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	7774	638	3	0.083	0.083	0.082	0.082	0.083	-0.001	-1.205	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.100	9,993,750
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	538,700	41,771	19	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.079	0.080	-0.001	-1.250	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.100	56,438,101
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	7,587	2,900	2	0.383	0.383	0.382	0.382	0.380	-0.008	-2.051	0.382	0.000	0.000	0.100	90,308,620
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	75,385	5,632	11	0.076	0.076	0.075	0.075	0.077	-0.002	-2.597	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.100	6,750,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	395,079	31,454	20	0.081	0.082	0.078	0.078	0.082	-0.004	-4.878	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.100	13,650,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	2,760	798	3	0.290	0.290	0.280	0.280	0.295	-0.015	-5.085	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.100	34,971,429
Total	21	7,548,868	1,426,053	382												

Parallel Market

OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	10,378	2,883	7	0.275	0.285	0.275	0.284	0.288	0.016	5.970	0.284	0.000	0.000	0.100	23,118,381
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	183,871	13,083	14	0.071	0.073	0.071	0.073	0.070	0.003	4.286	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.100	6,205,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	55,700	137,078	7	2.460	2.540	2.460	2.540	2.450	0.090	3.673	2.540	0.000	0.000	0.100	227,838,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	25,000	4,177	3	0.165	0.170	0.165	0.170	0.164	0.006	3.659	0.170	0.000	0.000	0.100	623,620,891
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	424,163	56,945	30	0.135	0.135	0.133	0.134	0.130	0.004	3.077	0.134	0.000	0.000	0.100	223,700,940
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	100	8	1	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.075	0.002	2.867	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.100	11,977,381
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	143,915	23,759	7	0.165	0.168	0.164	0.168	0.165	0.003	1.818	0.168	0.000	0.000	0.100	9,240,000
OM0000003900	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	476,391	485,721	83	1.020	1.030	1.018	1.030	1.020	0.010	0.980	1.030	0.000	0.000	0.100	71,070,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	555,085	57,704	6	0.103	0.105	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.001	0.971	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.100	232,643,115
OM0000003821	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	573,133	96,219	40	0.169	0.169	0.166	0.166	0.165	0.001	0.606	0.166	0.000	0.000	0.100	33,695,750
OM0000001301	DHOFAIR FOODS AND INVESTMENT	2,484	186	1	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.100	14,825,769
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	300,390	26,581	13	0.089	0.089	0.088	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.100	18,334,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	9,131,782	1,324,108	1	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.162	0.162	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.100	380,644,509
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	104,685	25,179	14	0.241	0.241	0.240	0.241	0.241	0.000	0.000	0.241	0.000	0.000	0.100	14,750,230
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	3,800	357	1	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.100	18,800,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	45,000	13,455	1	0.299	0.299	0.299	0.299	0.300	-0.001	-0.333	0.299	0.000	0.000	0.100	4,784,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	9,000	2,003	3	0.223	0.223	0.222	0.222	0.223	-0.001	-0.448	0.222	0.000	0.000	0.100	10,160,007
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	25,564	1,994	4	0.078	0.078	0.077	0.078	0.079	-0.001	-1.266	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.100	6,630,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAIR	37,510	5,749	7	0.155	0.155	0.153	0.153	0.155	-0.002	-1.290	0.153	0.000	0.000	0.100	458,441,770
OM0000005962	PHOENIX POWER	78,422	4,706	7	0.061	0.061	0.060	0.060	0.061	-0.001	-1.639	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.100	87,756,088
OM0000001095	DHOFAIR INSURANCE	165,000	33,825	2	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.209	-0.004	-1.914	0.205	0.000	0.000	0.100	22,378,798
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	10,000	480	1	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.049	-0.001	-2.041	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.100	14,743,024
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	34	141	2	4.150	4.150	4.150	4.150	4.300	-0.150	-3.488	4.150	0.000	0.000	1.000	13,695,000
Total	23	12,361,207	2,816,342	255												

SPORTS

Messi included in 29-man squad for Argentina’s pre-Copa America

The defending World Cup and Copa America champions will lock horns with Ecuador on June 9 at Chicago’s Soldier Field and Guatemala five days later in Landover

BUENOS AIRES: The World Cup-winning captain and Inter Miami star Lionel Messi will lead Argentina’s 29-man squad for upcoming friendly matches ahead of the Copa America competition. As per ESPN’s report on Tuesday, the defending World Cup and Copa America champions will lock horns with Ecuador on June 9 at Chicago’s Soldier Field and Guatemala five days later at in Landover,



Maryland before putting the Copa America title on the line. Copa America will take place from June 20 and July 14 in the USA, with Argentina being the defending champions, having won the title in 2021. Argentina is level with Uruguay for most Copa America titles at 15 each. The team managed by Lionel Scaloni includes 22 of 26 names from the 2022 FIFA World Cup winning team in Qatar, such as Messi and Angel De Maria. Missing from the team are stars like: Paulo Dybala (AS Roma), Juan Foyth (Villarreal) and Thiago Alameda (Atlanta United FC). Teams are supposed to submit their final Copa America squad by June 15, with 26 players per team being the maximum size, as confirmed by the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) last week. Argentina will open their Copa America campaign against Canada or Trinidad and Tobago on June 20 in Atlanta, then move on to New Jersey for a match against Chile then play Peru at Florida.

Argentina roster for Copa America friendlies
GOALKEEPERS: Emiliano Mar-

tinez (Aston Villa), Franco Arm-
ani (River Plate), Geronimo Rulli
(Ajax Amsterdam)
DEFENDERS: Gonzalo Mon-
tiel (Nottingham Forest), Nahuel
Molina (Atletico Madrid), Leon-
ardo Balerdi (Marseille), Cristian
Romero (Tottenham), German
Pezzella (Betis), Lucas Martinez
Quarta (Fiorentina), Nicolas
Otamendi (Benfica), Lisandro
Martinez (Manchester United),
Marcos Acuna (Sevilla), Nicolas
Tagliafico (Lyon), Valentin Barco
(Brighton)
MIDFIELDERS: Guido Rodri-
guez (Betis), Leandro Paredes (AS
Roma), Alexis Mac Allister (Liv-
erpool), Rodrigo De Paul (Atletico
Madrid), Exequiel Palacios (Bayer
Leverkusen), Enzo Fernandez
(Chelsea), Giovanni Lo Celso
(Tottenham), Valentin Carboni
(Monza).
FORWARDS: Angel Di Maria
(Benfica), Lionel Messi (Inter Mi-
ami), Angel Correa (Atletico Ma-
drid), Alejandro Garnacho (Man-
chester United), Nicolas Gonzalez
(FC Porto), Lautaro Martinez (In-
ter Milan) Julian Alvarez (Man-
chester City). -ANI

T20 WORLD CUP

Sam Curran positive on Jofra Archer’s comeback



NEW DELHI : Star England all-rounder Sam Curran thinks that right-arm Jofa Archer’s comeback to the national squad would be a fear factor for the opposition in the upcoming T20 World Cup 2024. Archer is one of cricket’s most exciting bowlers whose career has been derailed by injuries. The 29-year-old has barely featured for England in any format since 2021, mainly because of ongoing issues with his right elbow for which he has undergone two operations. A back injury ruled him out of most of 2022. His last appearance for England dates back to May 2023, and since then, he has been on the road to recovery from an elbow injury that forced him out for nearly 12 months. The path back hasn’t been easy for Archer - since 2021, he has encountered multiple obstacles, including stress fractures, persistent elbow problems and even surgery due to a freak fish tank accident. -ANI

PREMIER LEAGUE

Liverpool confirm Arne Slot as the new head coach

LIVERPOOL : Premier League outfit Liverpool on Monday announced Arne Slot as the replacement for head coach Jurgen Klopp. Liverpool released a statement to announce the appointment of Slot, which is subject to a work permit. “Liverpool Football Club can announce Arne Slot has agreed a deal to become the club’s new head coach, formally taking up the position on June 1, 2024, subject to a work permit,” the club said in a statement. The 45-year-old will join Liverpool from Eredivisie club Feyenoord ahead of the 2024-25 season after both clubs agreed a deal for his services. He will arrive after enjoying three successful seasons with Feyenoord. He led them to the league title in 2023 and was crowned as the Eredivisie Manager of the Year on two occasions. Last season, Feyenoord soared high with Slot at the helm of the club. Under his leadership, Feyenoord lifted the KNVB Cup and also secured their first league title in six years. Under Slot, Feyenoord have emerged as a strong defensive side in the opposition’s half, they top the Eredivisie for tackles won in the opposition’s final third. According to the statistics, they are the best defensive side and the second-best attacking



unit in the Dutch League. Slot usually names a 4-2-3-1 or 4-3-3 formation which fits Liverpool’s style of play. Before tasting success with Feyenoord, Slot held the position of head coach at AZ Alkmaar, and he had led them to second place in the table. They trailed table toppers Ajax only on goal difference when the Dutch season was cancelled due to COVID-19 in 2019-20. Slott will succeed Klopp who is destined to go down in Liverpool’s history. In January this year, Klopp announced his decision to step down from his position after spending nine years with the club. Klopp arrived at Anfield in 2015, changed the club’s fortune and established one of the best sporting rivalries with Manchester City. -ANI

WELL-EQUIPPED SQUAD

France will be the 2024 UEFA Euro favourite: Philipp

BERLIN: 2024 UEFA Euro tournament director Philipp Lahm called 2018 FIFA world champion France the favourite team to win this summer’s tournament. “They have got a remarkably well-equipped squad full of gifted talents,” the 40-year-old told Xinhua in a recent interview. From the 2014 world champion’s perspective, the 2000 European champion’s most challenging issue is “to get the power on the pitch as a team over the entire tournament.” The 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar has proven that “teamwork” makes national teams achieve a higher level. “The Qatar World Cup delivered several examples of teams performing beyond expectations such as Morocco.” Lahm mentioned the robust team spirit of Argentina and Croatia. “Argentina lost their first group encounter but fought back and everyone in the team was willing to provide his best for the benefit of the team.” Lahm mentioned Spain, England, Portugal and Germany as the fiercest competitors aside from France. The German added he is hoping for a tournament surprise “like we saw from the Iceland team in 2016.” The 113 times capped former defender praised the development of the German team under the coach Julian Nagelsmann and sporting director Rudi Voller. The recent success in the form of two victories over the Netherlands and France is trigger-



ing hopes to possibly repeat the so-called 2006 FIFA World Cup “summer fairytale.” “Voller is an identification figure for all fans and a people’s catcher,” he said calling German head coach Nagelsmann “a young talented coach” having found a tactical approach the recently struggling national team “is getting along with perfectly.” But Lahm sees challenges ahead “as you have to prove your upswing in a long and demanding tournament.” Lahm said Nagelsmann has changed the national teams’ nomination procedures “as he is appointing position-bound specialists for the various positions.” The Euro director expressed his hopes to create “a feeling of togetherness” for the host nation coming along with the message “football is uniting nations as millions of foreign fans join in and celebrate.” A tournament like the Euro 2024 is a great opportunity for fans of different nations “to get to

know each other and their way of life. Football is a sport uniting the world,” he added. Lahm praised German football’s “ability for competition as robustness has been a trademark for German football ever since.” Nagelsmann from Lahm’s perspective has found a “core for his team, an axis carrying the team.” The former Bayern captain is convinced that “everything is possible for our team.” The mood of nations can make a difference, he added. As for Germany, “it seems we saw a bud burst due to the latest success when it comes to people’s enthusiasm and support.” The former Bayern defender called safety and mobility the biggest challenges when running an event such as the Euro. “The Euro is a great opportunity to bring people together, especially in times like this as we need optimism to create a promising future for all.” -Xinhua

PREMIER LEAGUE

Man City deserve their title, but Arsenal can build for the future

LONDON: Manchester City’s fourth consecutive Premier League title says it all about Pep Guardiola’s side, as they came good when they needed to and kept their nerve to hold off a strong challenge from Arsenal to lift the title. Once again, Guardiola, for all his talk of leaving at the end of next season, has shown himself to be the master of the game, tweaking a team that had a couple of low moments in the season, but had the football, the footballers and the experience to hold off their rivals in the finishing straight. Erling Haaland, for all the criticism of his contribution outside of the penalty area, showed there is nobody in the world more reliable in front of goal, while Kevin de Bruyne is still a master of the creative football arts, even if he is starting to slow down. And if De Bruyne slows down, the Premier League’s Player of the Season, Phil Foden, continues to develop as arguably the most exciting English player of

his generation, with 19 goals this season, including the first two on Sunday. City may have missed the silky midfield talents of Ilkay Gundogan after his move to Barcelona, but Guardiola’s constant evolution saw him adapt the shape of his side, give extra responsibility to players such as John Stones, while 22-year-old Josko Gvardiol has had an excellent first campaign at the club, looking calm on the ball and even scoring key goals at the end of the campaign. Arsenal coach Mikel Arteta must feel frustration at seeing his side fall just short after they too produced a brilliant finishing run to the campaign. It’s hard to believe that both Arsenal and Manchester City won nine of their last 10 games, with the only points dropped coming in a 0-0 draw between the two sides in Manchester back in March. The fact Arsenal held their nerve means they can wave goodbye to the tag of ‘bottle merchants’



- a team that loses its nerve at key moments - and that is partly due to the arrival of England midfielder Declan Rice. Rice cost over 100 million pounds, but it looks like money well-spent, as he added both control and creativity in midfield. Meanwhile, Kai Havertz is another huge success for Arteta, finally

finding his place as a floating No. 9 giving even more mobility to a team packed with the attacking talents of Bukayo Saka, Martin Odegaard and Gabriel Jesus. A reliable left-back and a specialist striker might make Arsenal’s title challenge for next season almost impossible to resist. It was the end of an era at Liv-

erpool where Jurgen Klopp steps down with Arne Slot due to step in as his replacement. Klopp always said it would be a transitional year, and Liverpool’s cause wasn’t helped by a long injury list, but the good news for Slot is that youngsters such as Curtis Jones, Harvey Elliot and Jarell Quansah should be the building blocks for his team next season. Elsewhere, Mauricio Pochettino had a long, hard season at Chelsea with an expensive, but young and disparate squad of players that only started to play as a team in the last two months of the season. After spending part of the season in the bottom half, Chelsea rallied to finish sixth, and there should be more to come from them next season if the club keeps faith in the coach. Ange Postecoglou was a breath of fresh air for a Tottenham side that faced life without Harry Kane, and although they just fell short of the line in their efforts to reach the Champions League, Tottenham

have a base to push on and a style of play that will win over a lot of neutrals. The fact Spurs finished fifth and not fourth was due to Unai Emery’s excellent work at Aston Villa, where players such as Pau Torres kept them solid in defense, while Ollie Watkins and Leon Bailey gave them spark in attack. Villa’s challenge now will be to build a squad to compete at home and abroad as they began to look stretched in the final weeks of this campaign. And then there was Manchester United, who took two steps back in Erik ten Hag’s second season in charge and who will miss out on Europe unless they beat Manchester City in the FA Cup next weekend - an outcome that doesn’t seem likely. United end the season with everything up in the air as Sir Jim Ratcliffe ponders his options with both coach and a squad that will probably look very different at the start of next season. -Xinhua

Vodafone set to transform business connectivity in Oman with new enterprise services

Flexible and tailored to meet the diverse needs of businesses, the new plans bring the beloved features of BLACK to business customers, offering even greater value, convenience and scalability

MUSCAT: Committed to lead the transformation of business connectivity in Oman, Vodafone has unveiled the initial phase of its ground-breaking enterprise services with the launch of BLACK for Business postpaid plans.

Flexible and tailored to meet the diverse needs of businesses, the new plans bring the beloved features of BLACK to business customers, offering even greater value, convenience, and scalability.

Steadfast to deliver on its promise to “Make it Happen”, Vodafone is harnessing the global prowess of the Vodafone Group and tailoring it specifically for Oman through several first in the market product and service-features. The company is also leveraging its local strength in data allowance, award-winning network reliability, advance technologies and best-in-class customer care to enable businesses to grow and revolutionise their operations.

Eng. Mohammed Al Alawi, Head of Enterprise at Vodafone Oman, said: “Oman’s economic growth trajectory is underpinned by diversification and technological advancement. As we navigate this transformation, we at Vodafone Oman, recognise the critical need for adaptable communication solutions that empower enterprises to thrive in a dynamic marketplace.



Our mission goes beyond connectivity; it's about enabling Oman's businesses to access and implement best international practices and use cases to allow local enterprises to compete globally and drive economic empowerment.”

True to its digital-first DNA,

Vodafone business customers can easily sign-up for the plans via a newly launched business website. BLACK for Business offers five postpaid plans, Business Expand, Business Explore, Business Elite, Business Pioneer and Business Prime, catering to companies of

all sizes. In addition, Vodafone has integrated some of its best-selling features including, data rollover, data and voice roaming to over 154 destinations as well as the ability to take the plans abroad to 29 Vodafone countries, to name just a few. In addition, Vodafone Oman is

offering advanced SMS solutions to enable businesses to reach and connect to wider audiences.

Beyond the plans, Vodafone has addressed key mobile service challenges within the business community. Focusing on simplicity, useability, predictability and

above all value for money, all five BLACK for Business postpaid plans offer unprecedented control and consumption monitoring capabilities for both business owners and their employees. Through a fully-customisable Self-Service Portal, businesses can manage their unique mobile communication requirements quickly and digitally with full autonomy over billing and administration, giving them the agility they need to make fast and sound decisions. Addressing yet another challenge with bill shocks, the Vodafone BLACK for Business postpaid plans is coming with a feature to cap bills to the purchased plans, for any further consumption Vodafone adopted an innovative hybrid model that allows employees to purchase add-ons in advance through the My Vodafone App to supplement their existing plans, while also enabling business admins to buy add-ons for their employees and pay for them later. This market-leading technology is further backed by a dedicated 24/7 enterprise call centre as well as account managers for all business customers, regardless of their size, all with the experience and understanding of business demands across different industries to ensure an efficient, value-adding partnership.

The introduction of BLACK for Business postpaid plans represents a strategic step forward in Vodafone’s journey in Oman. Underscored by the company’s drive to be at the forefront of technological developments, the new plans set the stage for what is to come in the world of enterprise telecommunications from Vodafone. The launch comes ahead of the 33rd edition of annual global technology show COMEX, where Vodafone has plans to showcase just how it is enabling businesses to transform.

Enterprise customers are invited to explore, sign-up and customise their plans online via vodafone.om/business. With three simple steps, signing-up for business plans has never been easier; all customers have to do is visit the website, share their company registration number and national ID and the team will be ready to onboard you immediately.

RECOGNITION



Eint Automotive wins Petronas Middle East Grand Prix 2023

MUSCAT: In the ever-evolving automotive lubricant market of Oman, Eint Automotive, a subsidiary of the venerable Towell Group, stands out as a pioneering force.

As the official distributor of Petronas Lubricants in Oman, Eint Automotive has quickly become synonymous with quality and innovation. The year 2023 marked a significant milestone in their journey as they celebrated their first anniversary of partnership with Petronas, achieving remarkable success.

Eint Automotive’s commitment to excellence was spectacularly recognised at the Petronas Middle East Grand Prix-2023, where they clinched the title. This achievement underscores the company’s dedication to best practices and the effectiveness of their aggressive marketing strategies, including the launch of a visually striking new website in Oman that significantly enhanced their online presence.

The grandeur of the awards ceremony, held at the Jumeirah Beach Hotel in Dubai, was matched by the thrilling activi-

ties that followed, including a drift sprint experience and karting at Yas Marina in Abu Dhabi. These events mirrored the dynamic and forward-thinking ethos of Eint Automotive.

The accolades from Petronas during this event were a testament to the positive impact Eint Automotive has made within a short period. Shajahan Azeez, AGM of Eint Automotive, attributed these successes to the “sincere teamwork” of their dedicated staff, whose efforts have resonated deeply across the business landscape in Oman.

In a reflection of his vision for the future, Shajahan Azeez shared, “Our ambition at Eint Automotive is not only to meet the needs of today’s market but to set a benchmark for tomorrow. With Petronas, we aim to elevate our brand to become the number one lubricant brand in Oman in the coming years. Our strategy involves pioneering initiatives, enhanced customer engagements, and sustained excellence in our operations. This vision drives us forward, inspiring innovation and dedication across every aspect of our business.”

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

MHA joins hands with Darrbak to drive technological advancement in tourism sector

MUSCAT: Muscat Hospitality Academy (MHA), Oman’s premier hospitality education provider, has announced a groundbreaking partnership with Darrbak, a pioneering Omani digital tourism-focused company.

This strategic collaboration signals a new era of innovation and growth that is set to significantly enhance tourism in the country and develop Oman’s tourism industry growth in the future.

Darrbak, renowned for its technology-driven approach to tourism, offers a comprehensive platform showcasing travel, cultural, and sporting experiences which successfully serves both local & international markets by promoting the Sultanate of Oman as the ultimate ‘experience destination’, Darrbak has emerged as a game-changer in the tourism landscape where a staggering 99% of these locations are covered by Darrbak.

The partnership between MHA



and Darrbak comprises of a multifaceted strategy.

This strategy incorporates a dynamic exchange of knowledge, the development of educational programs, and the advancement of local service providing talent - aiming to share the necessary tools and resources for individuals to flourish in the tourism industry & nurturing a culture of continuous

learning and professional development. This partnership through these initiatives form a cohesive framework for strengthening and transforming Omani tourism as it stands today.

Commenting on the partnership, Amina Al Zadjali, Founder & Chairperson of Muscat Hospitality Academy, expressed optimism about the transformative poten-

tial of the collaboration. “We are thrilled to partner with Darrbak to showcase Oman’s tourism talent pool. Together, we will drive innovation, create enriching experiences, and support the next generation of hospitality professionals.”

Similarly, Jasim Mohammed Rashid Al Alawi, Founder of Darrbak, highlighted the shared vision of the two organizations. “At Darrbak, we believe in the power of collaboration to accelerate positive change in the tourism industry. Our partnership with Muscat Hospitality Academy reflects our commitment to innovation and excellence.”

With a mutual dedication to outstanding quality and inventive progress, Muscat Hospitality Academy and Darrbak are poised to reshape Oman’s tourism landscape, unlocking new opportunities for growth and prosperity with several joint projects eagerly awaiting their upcoming debut.

IN AL BURAIMI GOVERNORATE

Alizz Islamic Bank participates in seminar on services & benefits for entrepreneurs

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank, represented by the bank’s Al Buraimi Branch, recently participated in the Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry’s seminar, on ‘Services & Benefits for Entrepreneurs’ that was organised by the Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry, The Public Authority for the Development of SMEs and Oman Development Bank.

The seminar was dedicated to advancing economic development of SMEs in the Governorate of Al Buraimi by identifying untapped opportunities by nurturing entrepreneurs to stimulate robust economic growth and support in creating a thriving and sustainable economy for the governorate. The bank showcased the various services and benefits it provides to SMEs and entrepreneurs.



ROUND-UP

BankDhofar continues to empower Omanis in leadership positions

The management team now consists of 16 Omani top talent members with a diverse background across departments

MUSCAT: BankDhofar, a leading financial institution in the Sultanate of Oman, announced the new organisational structure for the executive management members of the bank.

The management team now consists of 16 Omani top talent members with a diverse background across departments. This is aligned with the Oman Vision 2040, and the directives of the Central Bank of Oman in supporting the banking sector with national talents.

BankDhofar has demonstrated a successful Omanisation model in the banking sector by hiring, nurturing and placing talented Omani professionals in various management,



administrative and operational roles. Alongside this model, the bank has witnessed a robust growth in its operational profit as well as an expansion in its branch network that has resulted in taking the bank even closer to its customers.

The bank is pleased to share the promotion of three leaders to the senior management cadre. Maryam Yousef Al Balushi, a seasoned professional with a wealth of experience, has assumed the role of Assistant General Manager for Large Corporates. Maryam is a strong corporate banker who will surely bring in growth and innova-



tion in serving corporate clients. EzideenJuma Al Mazroui, has been elevated to the level of Assistant General Manager and Deputy Chief Risk Officer (DCRO). With his extensive expertise, Ezideen will play an important role in enhancing risk management frameworks and robust and secure information systems. Saleh Mohammed Al Hadhrami, a legal expert at BankDhofar is appointed as the Assistant General Manager, Head of Legal, and Board Secretary. Saleh's leadership will be instrumental ensuring governance and sound legal practices.



Dr Khalid Salim Al Hamadani, Chief Human Resources Officer at BankDhofar said, "The bank employed numerous competent Omani talent who have acquired the experience and skill qualifying them to be at the pinnacle of success and greatness in alignment with the Bank's next future phase. This also comes in line with the directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq - may Allah preserve and protect him -to empower Omanis for leadership positions in all sectors, especially the banking sector, due to its vital role in driving economic growth."

"The bank has made significant progress in Omanising its workforce, with 80% of leadership positions now held by Omanis. In recent months; the bank has further recruited around 250 highly qualified and talented Omanis in various departments, raising the overall Omanisation ratio to 92%," he added.

Training is a critical growth funnel for the talent pool at the bank. Hence, BankDhofar has a leading Learning & Development Academy that runs various training and development needs under the brand "Performance Academy". The Academy is the state of the art facility and core Hub for all the Learning and Development initiatives in the Bank aiming at improving employee performance, productivity, and career development. The Academy consists of several classrooms with branch simulation, real time transaction testing to empower talent with additional responsibilities to assist in propelling growth expectations to the next phase. During the first quarter alone a total of 62% of the bank's staff took part in training both at the Performance academy as well as through enrollment in the bank's e-learning platform.

In alignment with the Oman Vision 2040 regarding SMEs, the

bank trained 85 of its talent pool on operational, financial and service excellence and simultaneously placed them across its branches in the Sultanate of Oman. These SME specialised employees are thoroughly trained to assist the needs of SME owners and help to provide the best banking services.

Furthermore, earlier this month, the bank successfully concluded an engaging session on Omani Women's Leadership. The forum addressed key themes, including the importance of women's participation in the financial and business sectors, the importance of diversity and inclusion at workplace in addition to strategies for empowering women to transform their dreams to impactful projects. This works to reinforce the bank's commitment to bringing in more female leaders.

The bank's strategy is to provide an exceptional and unique experience to customers through distinctive and exclusive services and offers that deepen existing relationships and retain them. As one of the oldest banks in the Sultanate of Oman, BankDhofar remains committed to deliver unparalleled services to its customers. It stands as the second-largest bank in terms of branch network, with a growing number of branches.

LIMITED-TIME



Hongqi introduces exclusive summer promotion promising unmatched luxury driving experiences

MUSCAT: MHD ACERE, the distributor of Hongqi cars in Oman, introduces an exclusive limited-time summer promotion promising unmatched luxury driving experiences.

Embodies opulence

Since its establishment in 1958, the renowned "Hongqi" brand has embodied opulence and distinction in the automotive industry. As temperatures climb, indulge in a journey of comfort in sophistication and style with Hongqi, celebrated for its exquisite craftsmanship and innovative technology.

Explore the Hongqi Ousado and HS5 Series: Delve into sophistication with the Hongqi Ousado series, beginning at OMR9900. Crafted with meticulous attention to detail, the Ousado series blends luxury with performance to elevate your driving experience. Alternatively, elevate your status

with the Hongqi HS5, starting from OMR12,800.

With its commanding presence and unmatched comfort, the HS5 sets new standards of excellence in luxury driving.

Delivering excellence

Mohsin Hani Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE, expresses enthusiasm about the offer, stating, "As the exclusive distributor of Hongqi cars in Oman, we are thrilled to introduce this special summer offer, designed to enhance the luxury driving experience in the country. At MHD ACERE, we are dedicated to delivering excellence and exceeding expectations, and this promotion underscores our commitment to providing unparalleled service and value."

Offer highlights

7 years/155,000kms service package: Enjoy comprehensive service

coverage for seven years or up to 155,000 kilometers, ensuring your Hongqi vehicle remains in prime condition.

7 Years Roadside Assistance: Drive with confidence knowing that help is readily available with just a call.

7 Years Unlimited Mileage Warranty: Enjoy the luxury of Hongqi with complete peace of mind.

Complimentary Insurance and Registration: Seamlessly transition into ownership with complimentary insurance and registration services.

Special Gift Vouchers: Receive OMR 250 worth of gift vouchers & OMR 100 Fuel Cards as a token of appreciation. The offer is available for a limited time only, subject to availability of stock.

Visit the Hongqi Showroom today to seize our exclusive, limited-time summer offer and elevate your driving experience.

INNOVATION

Kia unveils all-new electric EV6 All Wheel Drive in Oman

MUSCAT: Kia Oman has recently unveiled the much-anticipated and eagerly-awaited electric vehicle the all-new EV6 All Wheel Drive (AWD).

According to a spokesperson from Reliable International Automotive, the distributors for Kia in Oman, "Kia's new introduction underlines Kia's leap in electric mobility solutions. The EV6 encompasses advancements in design, features, technology and performance that is truly unparalleled. With the introduction of the EV6 in Oman, Kia is offering enthusiasts an opportunity to explore the future of thrilling driving experiences. Also, every buyer of EV6 will get a Home Charging EV unit. The EV6 is sure to create a completely new league of fans."



Designed to inspire and empower drivers around the world, the Kia EV6 is available in 'Earth' and 'GTL' grades in Oman. The EV6 embodies Kia's commitment to innovation and sustainability. With its sleek, aerodynamic silhouette and striking details, the EV6 stands out as a true icon of modern automotive design, setting new standards for beauty and functionality in the electric vehicle market. This compact mid-size SUV can accommodate up to five passengers and offers sporty dynamic interiors with ventilated driver and passenger seats, ambient mood lighting, black suede seats, among other features.

At the heart of the Kia EV6 is our industry-leading Electric-Global Modular Platform (E-GMP), which provides a solid foundation for exceptional performance, efficiency, and safety. Equipped with advanced battery technology and powerful electric motors, the EV6 delivers exhilarating acceleration, responsive handling, and a smooth, quiet ride, ensuring an unparalleled driving experience for all who step behind the wheel. The EV6 has a powertrain warranty of 5 Years/100,000 Kms and Anti-Perforation Warranty - 3 Years/100,000 Kms.

The EV6 is a high-performance

car clocking 3.5 sec 0->100". The Kia EV6 features a 77.4 kWh battery with a 74kW front motor and a 165kW rear motor. The dual-motor, 320-hp EV6 incorporates blacked-out exterior elements, including wheel arch mouldings, side treatments and front and rear fasciae. The EV6 can travel long distance up to 528 Kms (WLTP).

In addition to its impressive performance capabilities, the Kia EV6 is packed with a host of intelligent features and amenities designed to enhance convenience, comfort, and connectivity on the road. From state-of-the-art infotainment systems to advanced driver-assistance technologies, the EV6 offers a seamless and intuitive driving experience that puts the driver firmly in control.

The EV6 is also equipped with 20-inch alloy wheels, a sunroof, Augmented Reality Head-Up Display, Surround View Monitor (SVM), Blind-Spot View Monitor (BSVM), and a heated, flat-bottom steering wheel and rear seats. Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) include Forward Collision-Avoidance Assist (FCA) and Highway Driving Assist (HDA 2).

FCA can assist the driver when

braking to help prevent a collision or lessen the effects in certain conditions if a vehicle is detected in front and uses automatic braking to avoid or mitigate an impact. HDA 2 is a driving convenience system that is designed to help keep a set distance from a car detected in front and centres the vehicle in the lane and can, in certain circumstances, assist with lane changes and adjust the lateral position of the car within the detected lane markers.

The EV6 is available with an ultra-fast DC charging compatibility that charges in less than 4.5 minutes* for 100 kms. The EV High Voltage Battery Warranty is for 8 years/160,000 Kms. Available on-board power generators and a flat-floor interior that utilizes innovative materials throughout the cabin continue to be part of the EV6 package, as well as a remarkable level of connectivity features and Kia's latest-generation heat pump, which scavenges waste heat from the car's coolant system. The all-new EV6 also features an advanced Vehicle-to Load (V2L) function, allowing your Kia electric vehicle to power home appliances and electronic devices using an internal or external socket.





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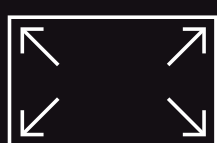
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LIFESTYLE



CHILDREN MORE
LIKELY TO BE
HOSPITALISED FOR

ASTHMA
DURING HEATWAVES: STUDY

Lead author Morgan Ye emphasised the significance of understanding climate-sensitive events like extreme heat on vulnerable populations to reduce climate change’s health impacts. Ye noted that children from families with lower adaptive capacity, often due to financial constraints, are particularly at risk

New research indicates that children are more likely to be hospitalised for severe asthma complications during heat waves, a problem expected to worsen with climate change. A study by the University of California, San Francisco, analysed health data from children admitted between June and September, 2017-2020, correlating it with temperature data from their homes. Researchers defined heat waves by analysing temperature extremes, including the top 99%, 97.5%, and 95% of temperatures. They discovered that daytime heat waves increased the odds of asthma hospitalisations by 19%, with longer heatwaves doubling this risk. No association was found with nighttime heat waves. Lead author Morgan Ye emphasised the significance of understanding climate-sensitive events

like extreme heat on vulnerable populations to reduce climate change’s health impacts. Ye noted that children from families with lower adaptive capacity, often due to financial constraints, are particularly at risk. The study underscores that even milder heat extremes in coastal California can significantly impact health, with global temperatures rising due to human-induced climate change, this trend predicts an increase in heat-related health issues. Complementing this, a Copenhagen University report warned that climate change exacerbates conditions for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients, with risks from hot, humid air, wildfire pollution, ozone, and storm-related humidity, highlighting the severe vulnerability of respiratory patients to climate impacts. - **UNA**

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