



CORAL FARM IN WILAYAT OF SUWAIQ HELPS IN INCREASING FISH STOCK

The coral reef farm in the Wilayat of Al Suwaiq, North Al Batinah Governorate is located four miles off the beach and is rich in different types of coral reefs, herbs, fish and other sea creatures, making it an ideal environment for many sea creatures. The coral reef farm in the Wilayat of Al Suwaiq has led to an increase in the fisheries stock in the artificial reef area.

>A4



Founded 1975 · Volume 49 No. 157 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

TIMESOFOMAN.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE

TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP

TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS

LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN

INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

بنك مسقط
bank muscat



Know More

Start saving with Meethaq account

2465 6666



C.A. No. 1/1437H

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Invest in Oman Hub localises 29 projects worth OMR1.2bn

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Invest in Oman Hub, the official investment interface under the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, has successfully localised numerous promising investment projects since its establishment.

To date, the hub has localised 29 projects worth OMR1.2 billion. Launched in January 2023, the hub serves as an integrated platform to attract investors, including financial institutions and development funds, targeting strategic sectors that Oman seeks to bolster with foreign direct investment, in align-

ment with Oman Vision 2040.

The hub offers a range of enablers to simplify the process for foreign investors, highlighting incentives, robust infrastructure, and a skilled workforce to support qualitative projects in sectors such as renewable energy, technology, innovation, tourism, circular economy, mining, food security, and more.

It also provides an opportunity map, feasibility studies, and specialised teams to target global companies and analyse incoming investments, ensuring that appropriate incentives are provided.

Hafsa bint Salem Al-Rashdiya, Director of Investor Relations at



the Invest in Oman Hub, stated that the hub has attracted several investments, with the industrial sector leading, followed by renewable energy and healthcare.

Notably, the hub played a key role in enabling major investments from renowned local and global real estate companies to develop

Sultan Haitham City in cooperation with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, with investments totalling OMR439 million.

Among the major localised projects in the industrial sector is a polysilicon plant in the Sohar Free Zone in North Al Batinah Governorate, with an investment exceeding OMR520 million, expected to open in 2025.

Al-Rashdiya emphasised the hub's pivotal role in attracting and encouraging high-value investments, focusing on strategic sectors through coordinated efforts with relevant ministries and international embassies.

>A5



Prime Minister of Belarus arrives in Oman

A5

GAZA DEATH TOLL

as of October 13, 2024



TheGuide

A unique experience
theguideoman.com @guideoman



35°
MUSCAT

SAI RECOVERS OVER OMR177 MILLION, REPORTS 115 CASES OF EMBEZZLEMENT

The funds included OMR95mn from 2023 cases and OMR82.7mn from 2022 cases. The money has been sent back to the State Public Treasury

MUSCAT: The State Audit Institution (SAI) has issued its 2023 Annual Report, highlighting significant efforts in promoting transparency and accountability across government entities, companies, and investments.

The report, submitted to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik by Sheikh Ghuson bin Hilal Al Alawi, Chairman of the SAI, emphasises the institution's role in recovering substantial funds and addressing cases of public fund misuse.

Copies of the report were also sent to the Council of Ministers and State and Shura Councils, in implementation of the provisions of Article (66) of the Basic Statute of the State issued by Royal Decree No. 6/2021, and Article (29) of State Audit Law issued by Royal Decree No. 111/2011.

In 2023, the SAI recovered OMR95 million, adding to OMR 82.7million recovered in 2022, bringing the total to OMR177.7



187

ACCORDING TO AHMED BIN SALIM AL RUJAIBI, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SAI, THE INSTITUTION CONDUCTED 187 AUDIT TASKS, ISSUING 185 REPORTS WITH 2,683 OBSERVATIONS.



million. These funds have been transferred back to the State Public Treasury as a result of the institution's rigorous audits of financial and administrative activities.

Addressing public fund misuse

The SAI reported 115 cases of

embezzlement and public fund misuse in 2023, many of which resulted in convictions. These cases involved bribery, forgery, abuse of office, conflict of interest, and failure to perform official duties, showcasing the institution's dedication to ensuring legal and ethical standards across sectors.

Key audit areas in 2023

According to Ahmed bin Salim Al Rujaibi, Deputy Chairman of the SAI, the institution conducted 187 audit tasks, issuing 185 reports with 2,683 observations.

These audits covered a wide range of areas, including tax assessments, social housing projects, IT systems, and the Ministry of Education's preparedness for the 2022/2023 academic year.

Other key areas included the challenges of issuing tourism licenses and auditing major projects such as the Dhofar Municipality Building, select offices

of the Governors, University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Agricultural and Fishery Development Fund and contracts at Sultan Qaboos University.

Al Rujaibi stressed that the audit plan was developed in alignment with Oman Vision 2040, ensuring that the SAI's activities contribute to national objectives. The SAI also adhered to international auditing principles set by the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), ensuring that its methods are in line with global standards.

Strategic sector audits

The report also highlights audits in critical sectors like oil, gas, and mining.

The SAI audited financial operations at Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), OQ Methanol, Oman Liquefied Natural Gas (OLNG), and Oman Investment Authority (OIA). >A2

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Heavy rainfall expected over Oman

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has issued a heavy rainfall alert (Alert 1) for several regions across Oman, from Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 4:00 am until Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 4:00 am. The warning comes in light of anticipated heavy thunderstorms expected to gradually develop from Monday evening. >A2

OMAN

Indian rupee falls against US Dollar

The Indian rupee fell sharply on Friday, hitting Rs 84.09 level against US dollar. On Sunday, the exchange houses in Oman were offering Rs 218.20 against the one Omani Rial - which is an all-time low. R.Madhusoodanan, a financial expert, said the reasons for steep fall of INR against the US dollar are the withdrawal of money from the stock markets. >A3

SPORTS

Babar, Shaheen, Naseem dropped

Former captain and key batter Babar Azam is among the key names dropped for Pakistan's second and third Test against England, with the second match beginning on Tuesday in Multan. Some of Pakistan's most well-renowned players will miss the second Test in Multan against England in a host of changes. >A8

Times of Oman 'Business Leadership Summit & Awards' to Showcase Leadership Excellence in Oman

MUSCAT: Organised by Muscat Media Group and Gulf Leaders Circle, the Times of Oman 'Business Leadership Summit and Awards 2024' will bring together over 200 top-level executives, senior government officials, business leaders, and industry experts to engage in in-depth discussions on business leadership and excellence, and celebrate their unique achievements at the St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort on the 30th of October.

Mr. Mohammed bin Mahfooth Alardhi, Executive Chairman of Investcorp and Chairman of the Board of Mus-

cat Stock Exchange will be the keynote speaker at the event.

The Summit is supported by Oman Energy Association (OPAL), Oman American Business Council and Oman Banks Association. Al Mouj Muscat is the strategic partner for the event. The theme of the Summit, 'Redefining Leadership for Business Excellence', aims to provide a powerful platform for thought-provoking discussions, offering valuable insights into the leadership strategies shaping the future of business in Oman and beyond. Attendees will have the opportunity to network with influential leaders and decision-



BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

makers, gain a better perspective on pressing business challenges, and discover innovative solutions for long-term sustainable growth.

On the event, Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali, CEO of Muscat Media Group, stated, "We are proud to present this annual summit

that not only highlights business leadership excellence but also encourages collaboration between key stakeholders to foster sustainable business practices. As we continue to support the Sultanate's Vision 2040, the Business Leadership Summit will serve as a key forum to ad-

dress a range of important topics, including adapting to economic uncertainties, embracing technological transformation, and developing sustainable business models, nurturing talent, enhancing organisational agility and more. With leadership at the forefront of these conversations, the event aims to redefine how businesses navigate a rapidly evolving global landscape."

In addition, the Times of Oman Business Leadership Awards will honour the exceptional individuals and organisations who have demonstrated visionary leadership and achieved excellence across Oman's

business landscape. Awards will be presented to distinguished CEOs, leading business owners, innovative SMEs and outstanding companies whose achievements have contributed to economic growth, inspired innovation and set benchmarks for business excellence.

For more information on speaking opportunities, partnerships and table/seat reservations, contact: Anand - anand@mmg.om or +968 9921 9268 Kalpesh - kalpesh@mmg.om or +968 9551 1335 Muna - muna@mmg.om or +968 9399 3334

Shura chief leads Omani delegation in IPU meeting

The meeting will also discuss the Israeli occupation forces’ aggression on the State of Palestine and the Lebanese Republic

GENEVA: The Council of Oman is taking part in the 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) General Assembly meetings being held in Geneva from 13 to 17 October 2024.

Oman’s delegation is headed by Khalid Hilal Al Maawali, Chairman of the Shura Council. The meetings will discuss the role of parliaments in dealing with various regional and international issues and taking relevant decisions.

Oman’s delegation will participate in many meetings, notably with the Standing Committee for Sustainable Development, the Standing Committee for Democracy and Human Rights, the Asso-



ciation of Secretaries-General of National Parliaments, the Standing Committee for International Peace and Security, the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

On the sidelines of the IPU meetings, Al Maawali headed Oman’s delegation taking part in the Arab Group’s coordination meeting, which discussed preparations for the IPU 37th Emergency Conference scheduled to be held on 15 October.

The meeting will discuss the Israeli occupation forces’ aggression on the State of Palestine and the Lebanese Republic. It will look into solutions to stop the brutal aggression.

The Arab Group at the IPU chose Al Maawali as head of the emergency panel that will deal with emergency issues submitted to the IPU for elaboration by the Algerian People’s National Assembly and the Palestinian National

Council.

The General Assembly agenda includes the election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 149th General Assembly, consideration of requests to include the emergency item in the agenda of the General Assembly, and the general debate on the theme “Harnessing science, technology and innovation for a more peaceful and sustainable future”, in addition to discussing the impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law, in addition to reviewing the reports of the standing committees.

The Oman Council delegation will also participate in a joint discussion panel between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Association of Secretaries-General of National Parliaments on “Future Committees: What is the Future of Parliaments?” which will discuss the importance of proactive governance for parliaments, lessons learned from the experience of parliamentary future committees and comparing them with other parliamentary mechanisms for proactive governance, and the next steps for parliaments in the field of strategic foresight and proactive governance and ways to develop them.

On the sidelines of the participation, Khalid Hilal Al Maawali, Head of the participating delegation, will meet with a number of heads of Arab, regional and international legislative councils to discuss the importance of strengthening bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and their countries.

The meetings will also witness discussions on a number of files and issues of common interest, and emphasis on the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening bilateral relations between countries. -OMA

Heavy rains warning issued

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has issued a heavy rainfall alert (Alert 1) for several regions across Oman, effective from Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 4:00 am until Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 4:00 am.

The warning comes in light of anticipated heavy thunderstorms expected to gradually develop from Monday evening and persist through Wednesday due to the effects of a tropical system.

The areas to be affected include the governorates of South Al Sharqiyah, Al Wusta, and Dhofar, extending to parts of Muscat, North Al Sharqiyah, Al Dakhiliyah, South Al Batinah, North Al Batinah, Al Dhahirah, and Al Buraimi. Rainfall amounts are predicted to range between 30-80 mm, with strong downdrafts, hail, and a high potential for flash floods in wadis (valleys).

The CAA advises residents to avoid crossing wadis, stay clear of low-lying areas, and refrain from sailing during the alert period. Additional warnings include:

Heavy thunderstorms with hail are expected, bringing 30-80 mm rainfall, potentially causing flash floods.

TENDER
ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Labour announces the following tender:

Tender No.	Tender title	Last date for tender purchase online	Bid submission date
36/2024	Construction of Muttrah Labour Department	Sunday 03/11/2024 2:00 p.m.	Sunday 24/11/2024 10 a.m.

- Specialized establishments may obtain the tender’s documents online through the following link, starting from Monday 14/10/2024 at 08:00 a.m.
/https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om
- Bids shall be opened at 11:00 am on Sunday 24/11/2024.

(The Ministry shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid)

labour_OMAN

WASHAQ AL JABAL 1

Joint Omani-Pakistani
military exercise begins

JABAL AKHDAR: The joint Oman-Pakistan military exercise “Washaq Al Jabal 1” or “Mountain Lynx 1” began on Wednesday at the military training area in Al Jabal Al Akhdar.

The drill is carried out by the Royal Army of Oman (RAO), units from the army of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO).

The drill, which runs till 21 October 2024, includes a range of military obstacles and joint training activities.

Moreover, the drill aims to sustain combat and operational preparedness of RAO personal, as well as exchange expertise with friendly countries.

The activities of the exercise were attended Brigadier General Abdul Kadhim bin Ibrahim Al Ajmi, Commander of Infantry Brigade 11 of the Royal Army of Oman and several senior officers from both sides. -OMA

CS95
7 SEATER
4WD SUV

THE ALL-NEW 2024MY CS95
HIGH-PERFORMANCE INTELLIGENT 7 SEATER FAMILY SUV

2.0L Turbo Engine, 224 hp | 8 Speed AT
Manufacturer’s Warranty – 6 YEARS / 250,000 KMS*
EMI OMR 181* for 6 years

Forward Collision Warning

Adaptive Cruise Control

540° HD Panoramic View

Easy Open Power Lift Gate

Remote Engine Starter

Driver Seat Massage Function

12.3" Display with SCC Map Navigation, GPS with Voice Command

3 ROW, 7 SEATER (Ultra Fiber - Leather Seats)

*Easy Monthly Installment is calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 years loan tenure, Subject to credit approvals from Banks only. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. To know more, please visit the CHANGAN AUTO Showroom.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

Showrooms: Qurum 96641010, Mawaleh 97888180, Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibbi 96628930, Sales Centers: Nizwa 96628940, Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

800 50800
9662 8909
@changanoman
www.changanoman.com

oman
OASIS
BALANCED DRINKING WATER

SUMMER
OFFER

OMR 50 ONLY
HOT & COLD DISPENSER
+ 2 FULL BOTTLES
+ 30 REFILL COUPONS

OMR 20 ONLY
WHITE TAP DISPENSER
OR
TAP DISPENSER
OR
MANUAL WATER PUMP
OR
CRADLE WITH TAP
+ 2 FULL BOTTLES
+ 15 REFILL COUPONS

Protection duration: Aug 15 to Nov 14, 2024

OASIS WATER COMPANY SAOC
P.O.Box: 97, Pusaifi 124, Sultanate of Oman.
CR No. 138462 - MINERALWATER

800 711 222
9275 5522

Winner of
The Ministry's Cup Award
in 2013 & 2014
for Best Price Performance

FINANCES

SAI reviewed 57 pieces of legislation

<FROM A1 Additionally, it evaluated electricity and wastewater services, maintenance of sewage treatment plants, smart meter transformation plan and customer service evaluations.

The SAI reviewed 57 pieces of legislation in 2023, providing feedback on draft laws and regulations concerning financial and tax-related matters, ensuring alignment with national policies.

The institution received 951 complaints and reports from the public in 2023, addressing financial irregularities, negligence, and misuse of public funds. It achieved an 87% completion rate in resolving these cases, reflecting its commitment to public partnership and community involvement. Al Rujaibi also highlighted the SAI’s efforts to raise public awareness about the importance of protecting public funds through various media programmes, seminars, and publications. These initiatives aim to foster a culture of integrity and accountability throughout Oman.

The 2023 Annual Report showcases the State Audit Institution’s dedication to promoting financial responsibility and good governance, ensuring Oman’s resources are protected for future generations.

Terms and conditions apply



We help your deposits grow for a brighter future!

Higher returns on deposits for customers of the Ladies account at BankDhofar.

bankdhofar

2479 1111www.bankdhofar.com

Scan to learn more





بنك ظفار
Bank Dhofar

SUSTAINABLECITY

Sultan Haitham City to maintain balance with the environment

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sultan Haitham City has been engineered to achieve sustainable environmental balance by relying on the use of solar energy, applying waste-to-energy production systems, and treating wastewater.

Eng. Khalfan bin Masaud Al Na'abi Director General of Urban Planning at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, explained that the urban strategic policies take into account sustainability and balance between human needs and the natural and environmental resources available in Sultan Haitham City, and its design achieves all these data, which will contribute to raising the levels of urban planning.

He indicated that the new city projects will not affect the environment, and the designs are suitable for finding sustainable means of transportation and implementing advanced infrastructure.

For his part, Al Hassan Ali Al Shukairi, the architect of Sultan Haitham City, said that the 12 basic features of the city take into account sustainability in terms of design and operation, and the implementation processes will take into account wind directions to reduce the temperature in the city, and this will form the concept of a walkable city.

The use of solar energy in electricity production is a major foundation in the city, and the use of modern and smart systems has been taken into account in operating the buildings.

On the other hand, Engineer Hamad bin Salim Al Maghdari, CEO of Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company, said that the company is implementing the directives of Oman Vision 2040 in aspects related to the environment and reducing emissions through the



use of modern technologies in service management, noting that the effort is ongoing in the field of renewable energy in providing various centres with electric chargers for cars, as the focus will be on Sultan Haitham City, which will achieve the goals of sustainable and comprehensive development, especially with regard to renewable and clean energy.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning explained in a statement that the city will be "comfortable" by adopting the designs of external areas on natural shade through afforestation, in harmony with its architectural nature in determining the directions of urban buildings, providing natural spaces in the open air, distributing the density and height of buildings, and designing streets.

The city will also be built to be "easy to access" by adopting a policy of distributing the road network, community facilities and services within close distances, taking into account the possibility of accessing the largest possible number of facilities, in addition to the city containing an internal network for transportation, diverse and accommodating different types of transportation methods, such as public and private transportation and special paths for pedestrians and bicycles, in a way that connects the city's neighbourhoods, its center and various facilities, enhanced by methods of comfort and safety.

The city's smart planning mimics the nature of its location and applications that keep pace with modernity and facilitate the user's daily life, harnessing effective technological solutions and innovations in the design and operation of infrastructure and buildings, in a way that meets current and future needs, which will make it a "beloved" city that creates the moment and offers luxury through the harmony of all its features, details, services and facilities, starting from choosing its strategic location and ending with the features of luxury and comfort, to be an attractive and preferred destination for everyone.

Indian rupee dips against US dollar

On Sunday, the exchange houses in Oman were offering Rs218.20 for one Omani Rial - which is an all-time low



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Indian rupee fell sharply on Friday, hitting Rs84.09 level against US dollar. On Sunday, the exchange houses in Oman were offering Rs218.20 for one Omani Rial - which is an all-time low.

Speaking to *Times of Oman*, R.Madhusoodanan, a financial expert based in Muscat, said the reasons attributed to the steep fall of INR against the US dollar are the heavy withdrawal of money from the stock markets by the foreign institutional investors, a sharp rebound in the crude prices.

"The Middle East tension, sustained strength in the US dollar

index etc have led to the decline. During the last 8 trading sessions, foreign investors have withdrawn about \$7 billion worth of equities from the Indian stock market," he said. He also said that of late the INR was on the defensive due to India's shrinking Balance of Payments (BOP) surplus and a rise in merchandise trade deficit.

"The cut in basic customs duty of gold, silver, platinum and mobile accessories in the last Union budget also negatively impacted the trade deficit," he said.

It is a fact that the currencies in the emerging markets had weakened during the year and the Yen also weakened significantly against the US dollar.

"However, INR was trading in a range-bound level of 83-84 during

the year, due to RBI's intervention to keep the currency somewhat stable. The forex reserve of the country has crossed the record level of \$700 billion and India is among four such nations of the world now," he said.

In the short-term horizon, the outlook is that the rupee could see more pressure.

With the comfortable forex position, RBI might intervene to keep the rupee volatility minimum and a marginal fall.

The likely cut in the interest rates by the US Fed in November, uncertainty in the crude prices, fluctuation in the dollar index, fear of recession in the US, switching of the asset class from equity to gold, etc will have a bearing on the rupee-dollar movement.

COMMENTARY

Let the storm pass



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

Animals in my opinion, teach us many lessons. I was looking through my window at the crows landing on the power line. It was a windy day and they sought shelter behind a row of houses. Rather than fly against the wind, they abandoned their flight to let the storm pass.

You and I can do the same thing. Why fight the tide of problems when we can take a shelter somewhere quiet for a while? The birds knew that the winds would not rage all day and they can resume their flight soon after. Changing plans does not mean we are losing focus. What is the point in sticking to something that will lead to nowhere? Time is valuable and doing things according to plan is equally important but it is crucial to face our disappointments when there are obstacles. Those

crows on the power line knew their limitations. They were not stupid enough to risk when they knew all they had to do is wait a little longer. Somewhere in their past they remembered the destruction of the wind and it paid to be patient.

Birds also know that there are more calm days than stormy ones. To them, dodging the rough weather is second nature. For us, taking a temporary shelter is not to admit defeat. Many of us have the urge to catch up with the lost time, hence our hurry to steam ahead. Remember, you always make a bad decision when you don't stop to think. We get married quickly after a divorce, we say things instantaneously without meaning them or resign from a job on impulse. These problems happen when we try to fly into the rough wind. It all stems from the anxieties of our past or the uncertainty of the future. We can only go to one direction and that is forward. The past is a step back and the future can only be there if we stand firmly on the present.

Problems like divorces, missing someone, losing jobs or money would not go away but they can be dealt with as they come. When they told you to face the music they also meant to get in the jive and danced to the tune. Why? Because it is the same music everybody else hears. The

only difference is that we don't boogie in the same disco hall. We all dance to the same tune in our private lives and in separate occasions. Look at yourself this way. How would you like to be remembered after your death? People do not care whether you lived alone, worked as a waiter or was the owner of a multi-million company. They are going to remember you how you treated others. How you treated others would have depended how you treated yourself while you were alive.

There is no excuse for feeling sorry to yourself when it gets tough. Remember, nobody cares what goes on in the privacy of your thoughts. You don't need sympathy and convince yourself that you are not looking for that kind of reaction. Problems come and go just like successes. Never ever promise yourself that you are going to solve every crisis that comes your way. Moreover, don't take anything for granted and give yourself a chance by paying attention to what is more important. It does not pay to let precious moments pass you by for something you have very little or no control. Lie low in that shelter when you can and fly out when it is calmer, just like those birds on the power line. As for me, I now see clearer when I sit on my sofa looking outside through that window.



100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OFFER



MG GT

CELEBRATORY PRICE

OMR 7,299

WIN 100 PRIZES.

ON EVERY PURCHASE, GET A CHANCE TO WIN.



TEST DRIVE & WIN A SMART PHONE

INCLUDES INSURANCE, REGISTRATION, SERVICE 10,000KM & ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

Price excludes VAT. Offer valid from 24/09/2024 - 23/11/2024. Price showcased is for MG GT 2024 4BY. Free Insurance 1st Year (Oman & UAE). Free Registration 1st Year. Free Service 10,000 km & Roadside Assistance. Images used for illustrative purposes only.



800 80111
71557334

6 YEAR 200,000 KM

WARRANTY



mgmcoroman
mg-om.com

Azaila | Manuma | Wattayah | Bidaya | Bureimi
Barka | Sohar | Ibri | Nizwa | Salalah | Sur



CORAL FARM IN WILAYAT OF SUWAIQ HELPS IN INCREASING FISH STOCK

The farm was inaugurated in December 2019 at a cost of OMR2.6 million

AL SUWAIQ: The coral reef farm in the Wilayat of Al Suwaiq, North Al Batinah Governorate, is the largest artificial coral farm in the Middle East and covers an area of 20km along the coastal line and with the width of 7km and the depth of 15 to 30 metres.

The farm is located 4 miles off the beach and is rich in different types of coral reefs, herbs, fish and other sea creatures, making it an ideal environment for many sea creatures.

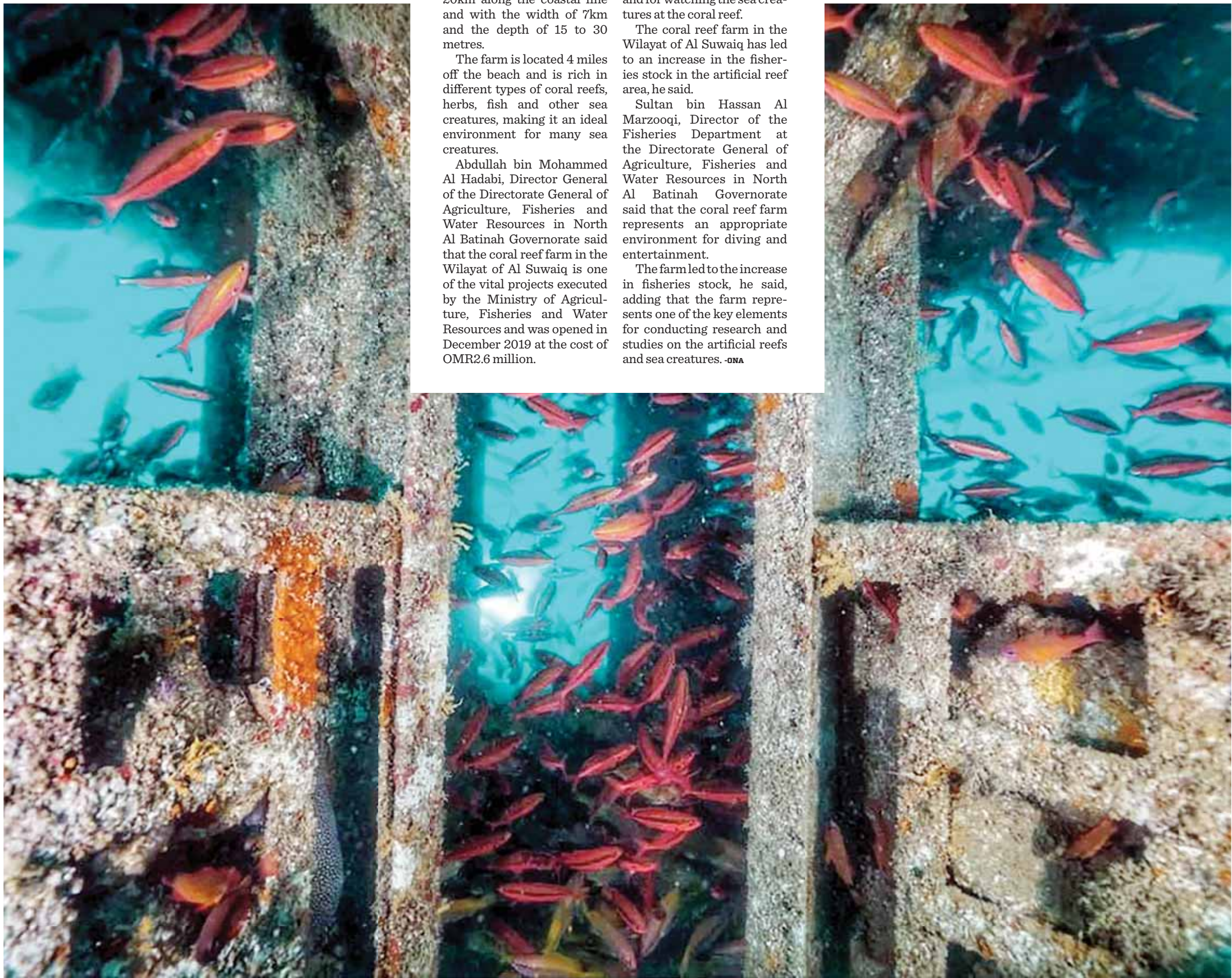
Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Hadabi, Director General of the Directorate General of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in North Al Batinah Governorate said that the coral reef farm in the Wilayat of Al Suwaiq is one of the vital projects executed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and was opened in December 2019 at the cost of OMR2.6 million.

He said that the personnel concerned at the fisheries department in the governorate follow the diving operations at the farm to observe the formation of the coral reefs and for watching the sea creatures at the coral reef.

The coral reef farm in the Wilayat of Al Suwaiq has led to an increase in the fisheries stock in the artificial reef area, he said.

Sultan bin Hassan Al Marzooqi, Director of the Fisheries Department at the Directorate General of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in North Al Batinah Governorate said that the coral reef farm represents an appropriate environment for diving and entertainment.

The farm led to the increase in fisheries stock, he said, adding that the farm represents one of the key elements for conducting research and studies on the artificial reefs and sea creatures. -ONA



Belarus prime minister arrives in Oman on a 3-day official visit

On his arrival at the Royal Airport, Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister led the welcoming party for the guest

MUSCAT: Roman Golovchenko, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus arrived on Sunday evening to the Sultanate of Oman on a three-day official visit.

Upon their arrival at the Royal Airport, Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister led the welcoming party for the guest and his accompanying delegation.

Sayyid Badr welcomed the guest and wished him a successful visit and a pleasant stay.

The guests were also welcomed upon their arrival by: Sayyid Saud Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat, Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (Head of the Mission of Honour), Hamoud Salim Al Tuwaih, Ambassaodr of the Sultanate of Oman to the Russian Federation and non-resident Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus, as well as the Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to the Sultanate of Oman.

Then, Sayyid Badr accompanied the guest to the main hall, passing two rows of the Royal Oman Police (ROP) guard of honor.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus is accompanied by an official delegation comprising the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to the Sultanate of Oman, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food, Deputy Minister of Industry and several officials from the government of the Republic of Belarus. -ONA



Oman, Belarus to expand bilateral relations

MOSCOW: Hamoud Salim Al Tuwaih, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Russian Federation, Oman's non-resident Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus, affirmed that the Sultanate of Oman and Belarus have developed good relations and mutual cooperation in many fields.

In a statement to the Oman News Agency (ONA), Al Tuwaih said that the visit made to Oman by Roman Golovchenko, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, provides an important opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations, enhance cooperation and exchange expertise in the fields of economy, trade, culture, education and investments.

Al Tuwaih added that, through the visit of Belarus PM, the two countries are looking forward to expand bilateral cooperation. "The visit will pave the way for realizing the aspirations of the two countries' peoples. It is in pursuance of steps that have been taken by the two countries during the past years," he explained.

Al Tuwaih pointed out that the two countries earlier signed many memoranda of understanding, including the Agreement on the Promotion and Protection of Investment (signed on 10 May 2004), the Agreement on Economic and Commercial Cooperation (signed in 2007), a Memorandum of Understanding for Political Consultations (signed in 2007) and the Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and an agreement on cooperation between the chambers of commerce of the two countries.

Other pacts include an agreement on mutual cancellation of visas for holders of diplomatic, special and official passports and memoranda of understanding between the ministries of foreign affairs, justice, education and culture. An air transport agreement was signed by the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman in July 2023, he added.

Al Tuwaih said that bilateral relations between Oman and Belarus were established on July 23, 1992 and that the President of the Republic of Belarus made an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman in April 2007 and was received at that time by the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said.

Al Tuwaih stressed that the two sides continue to exchange visits at parliamentary and political levels and that they hold rounds of political consultations in a regular manner.

Al Tuwaih affirmed that the two countries study prospects for expanding their bilateral cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, commercial exchange, investment, technology, energy and alternative energy.

Currently, bilateral cooperation covers the areas of education and research through the exchange of students and researchers, in addition to innovation, technology and cultural exchange.

The two sides organized joint cultural events and took joint steps to support the tourism sector, with a view to expanding investments in this field, he added.

Al Tuwaih told Oman News



Agency (ONA) that "There is ongoing cooperation between the Omani National Museum and Belarusian museums. "We hope that this coordination will be increased further in the forthcoming stage," he said. In this context, he referred to an agreement signed in 2016 to establish a Centre for Arabic Language and Culture within the compound of Minsk State University.

He explained that the centre usually sends students to study Arabic language at Sultan Qaboos University and that students from the Republic of Belarus are scheduled to join Sultan Qaboos University in January 2025.

Al Tuwaih added that, on 1 April 2018, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding in Muscat in the field of heritage and culture. This was in addition to a memorandum of understanding signed in March 2018 by the National Museum of Oman and the Natural History Museum of the Republic of Belarus in the field of culture and museum activities, he explained. -ONA

INVEST IN OMAN HUB

Digital platform promotes investment

<FROM A1 Since its inception, the Invest in Oman hub has developed a digital platform aimed at promoting Oman's investment environment.

This platform offers investors essential information such as an interactive opportunity map, laws, incentives, and a self-service function for foreign investors to start their businesses in Oman, saving time and effort. To date, the database includes 1,881 contacts, comprising investors and delegations received as of May 2024.

Streamlining procedures and providing support

Rabab bint Mustafa Al-Lawatiya, Head of the National Negotiation Team at the Invest in Oman Hub, explained that the hub works to complete procedures efficiently.

Upon arrival, investors are greeted by service ambassadors who assist them with the necessary paperwork, such as opening a bank account or registering a business.



Each investor is assigned a relationship manager to provide continuous support throughout their investment journey, ensuring seamless service even after the project's implementation.

Continuing strategic role

Al-Lawatiya noted that the hub will continue to play a strategic role in developing services for investors, making Oman a globally

preferred investment destination.

The focus will remain on sectors aligned with global economic shifts, such as renewable energy, artificial intelligence, technology, and sustainable tourism, in line with Oman Vision 2040.

The hub aims to enhance investor relations, utilise global platforms, and present Oman as a competitive, promising investment destination.

IN RIYADH

Oman participates in Global Logistics Forum

RIYADH: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology took part on Sunday in activities of the Global Logistics Forum, held in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

The forum aims to establish firm and sustainable global supply chains.

Oman's delegation to the event was headed by Eng. Said Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology.

The forum focuses on bolstering international partnerships and exchanging expertise and technologies. On the sidelines of the event, the Minister of Transport, Communications and In-



formation Technology met with Saleh Nasser Al Jasser, Minister of Transport and Logistic Services of Saudi Arabia.

During this meeting, the two sides reviewed areas of joint cooperation between the two countries. -ONA

JOINT COOPERATION

Oman-Pakistan Business Forum discusses investment opportunities

MUSCAT: The Omani-Pakistani Business Forum yesterday discussed opportunities for joint cooperation between the two sides in various economic, health and entrepreneurship fields.

During the forum, the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) presented visual display in which it outlined investment opportunities and incentives offered to investors in those zones.

The forum also touched on opportunities available in Pakistan.

The participants engaged in a discussion panel that elaborated on business prospects and the legal setup supporting investment. In addition, an exhibition was organised to showcase Pakistani products.

Faisal Abdullah Al Rawas,



Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI),

stressed the importance of enhancing joint projects, commercial exchange and investments be-

tween the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Pakistan. He laid emphasis on projects that support

economic diversification while exploring more opportunities that are enhanced by the attractive and

stimulating investment climate in the Sultanate.

Bumpy start for UK's new Labour government

Labour had been in opposition since 2010 before Prime Minister Keir Starmer led the party to victory this year, securing a massive 174-seat majority in the UK parliament

LONDON: As the United Kingdom's Labour government marked its 100 days in office on Saturday, political commentators are markedly less enthusiastic than in the aftermath of the party's landslide win in the July 4 general election. Instead, they are asking whether Labour will be able to get back on course after an apparently bumpy start.

Labour had been in opposition since 2010 before Prime Minister Keir Starmer led the party to victory this year, securing a massive 174-seat majority in the UK parliament.

The honeymoon period of popularity enjoyed by a new government was short-lived for Starmer, however, as his government's accomplishments so far have been overshadowed by moves including the deeply unpopular plans to cut winter fuel benefits for pensioners.

Among the most-touted achievements during Starmer's first 100 days in power are the government's success in resolving the junior doctors' and train drivers' strikes, cancelling the controversial Rwanda scheme proposed by the previous Conservative government, making good progress in launching GB Energy and scrapping no-fault evictions for tenants. Starmer's handling of the far-right riots that rocked the country this summer has also been applauded.

On Thursday, the government also unveiled the Employment Rights Bill, outlining reforms aimed at boosting economic growth and upgrading workers' rights across the country.



figures on Friday showed that the UK economy returned to growth in August after flatlining for two months, a welcome boost for the government.

However, the government has come under fire for announcing plans to scrap winter fuel allowances worth up to 300 British pounds (392 U.S. dollars) for 10 million pensioners, and refusing to lift a two-child cap on child benefit.

There has also been heavy criticism of Starmer for accepting thousands of pounds from a wealthy party donor to pay for clothes. Other Labour ministers

have also received free gifts including tickets for major sporting events and Taylor Swift concerts.

Professor Iain Begg from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) told Xinhua: "Labour, in power for its first 100 days, has been frantic. It's had considerable difficulties and shown a lack of political experience, but it's also tried to push forward a very large number of agenda items which had been lapsed under the previous administrations."

"The verdict, therefore, is a rather checkered one," Begg said.

An Opinion poll released in late September that Starmer's approval

rating had plunged below that of the Tory leader Rishi Sunak, suffering a huge 45-point drop since July. Meanwhile, a YouGov poll revealed this week that Starmer is now as unpopular as the controversial Brexiteer Nigel Farage.

Nevertheless, Begg said that in British politics, a government will often make tough decisions and policy announcements in its first year in power, leaving another four years to turn such decisions around.

"It's fair to say that Starmer can expect a few more storms over the next year or so, until some of his initiatives start to show that they're genuinely making a difference. There'll be easy tests for the public to apply and if he passes those tests, he'll be seen as a more successful prime minister than maybe he has been in his first 100 days," he said.

Andrew Roe-Crines, a researcher in British politics at the University of Liverpool, thinks the Budget will be an opportunity for Starmer and his party to sway public opinion when it is delivered on Oct. 30.

"If they are right and they're able to show this in the Budget by being able to invest in things which people expect to see, then maybe there's hope for positive things later down the line," Roe-Crines said. — Xinhua



Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box 770,
Postal Code: 112

Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

MUSSANAH RACE WEEK

Oman Sail, Asyad Group sign pact to promote sailing

Times News Service

MUSSANAH: Oman Sail and the Asyad Group signed a partnership agreement, making Asyad the Main Sponsor of the 14 th edition of Mussanah Race Week in 2025. The signing took place during the closing ceremony of the 13 th Mussanah Race Week at Mussanah Sailing School, that was attended by Abdulmalik Al Balushi, Asyad Group's Chief People Officer, and Dr. Khamis Al Jabri, Oman Sail CEO. The agreement also includes Asyad sponsoring the Oman Sail Youth Program ILCA Class both locally and internationally.

Through this agreement, Asyad joins forces with Oman Sail to achieve excellence in the sport of sailing by enhancing Oman's presence at the global stage and provide high-quality training for Omani sailors of both genders, enabling them to compete at the highest levels.

These efforts are part of establishing Oman as one of the leading countries in this sport.

The partnership also focuses on highlighting Oman's rich maritime heritage and promoting sustainable environmental practices in maritime events, which aligns with Asyad Group's vision in this regard. This partnership is in line with national efforts to develop sports, engage youth, and enhance community development.

Abdulmalik Al Balushi praised this agreement and said: "this partnership with Oman Sail as a strategic partner and main sponsor of the 14 th edition of Mussanah Race Week and the national ILCA teams is a true reflection of Asyad Group's vision to nurture national talents and shape the future for upcoming generations."

Al Balushi added, "this program aims to develop sailing talents in the Sultanate of Oman and build a community that enables Omani youth and enhances their skills in this sport, in which Omani athletes have consistently achieved remarkable accomplishments."



NEWS AGENCY REPORT

Poland's PM Tusk plans to suspend the right to asylum

WARSAW: Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk late on Saturday announced plans to temporarily suspend the right to asylum. The move aims to limit the number of people crossing the country's border with Belarus and seek refuge in the European Union.

Over the past three years, Poland — a NATO member and EU state — has accused Belarus and Russia of helping thousands of migrants, mainly from the Middle East and Africa, to try to enter to country via the EU's eastern flank. Warsaw has labelled it a "hybrid attack."

What did Donald Tusk say?

Polish news agency PAP reported that Tusk told a party congress of his liberal Civic Coalition (KO) that his government plans a new migration strategy to help wage a "merciless" fight against illegal immigration. "I'm saying loud and proud that our migration strategy will include the temporary suspension of the right to asylum on our territory," he added.

The prime minister didn't expand on the plans, but vowed that "the state must regain 100% of the control over who enters and leaves Poland."

Tusk pointed to the alleged misuse of the right to asylum "by [Belarusian President Alexander] Lukashenko, by [Russian President Vladimir] Putin, by smugglers, human smugglers, human traffickers," which he said was "completely contrary to the actual essence of the right to asylum."

Tusk, who is the former president of the European Council — the Brussels-based body that



steers the EU's political direction — added that Warsaw would also "demand recognition in Europe for this decision."

Referring to the bloc's new asylum and migration pact, which seeks to establish a bloc-wide asylum policy, he warned: "We are not going to respect or apply any European idea that... hinders our security."

Poland and the Czech Republic this week demanded tougher restrictions than those laid out in the new EU pact, which is due to take effect in 2026.

Tusk said he would present his migration strategy to the Cabinet on Tuesday, telling delegates that "we will reduce illegal migration in Poland to a minimum."

Migration crisis on Belarusian-Polish border

Poland has faced increasing pressure from undocumented migrants on its border with Belarus since 2021.

Successive Polish governments have accused Belarus and Russia of luring migrants to the shared border and attempting to destabilise the EU. Minsk and Moscow have rejected the accusations. — AP

NCP LEADER

Baba Siddique shot dead in Mumbai: Bollywood celebs visit Lilavati Hospital to meet family

MUMBAI: Bollywood actors, including Salman Khan and Shilpa Shetty, visited Lilavati Hospital in Maharashtra's Mumbai late Saturday night to meet the family of former state minister and NCP leader Baba Siddique, who succumbed to bullet injuries after being shot by unidentified assailants.

Actor Zaheer Iqbal also reached the hospital to meet the family of Baba Siddique. The actors expressed their condolences and support to the grieving family during this difficult time.

Actor Riteish Deshmukh expressed his grief over the incident, saying, "The perpetrators of this horrific crime must be brought to justice." "Extremely saddened and shocked beyond words to learn about the tragic demise of Shri #BabaSiddique ji - My heart goes out to @zeeshan_iyc and the entire family- May god give them strength to brave this difficult time," Deshmukh wrote in a post on X.

Siddique was shot dead by unidentified attackers in Mumbai on Saturday evening. Siddique, a three-time MLA from Bandra West, had joined Ajit Pawar's NCP earlier in February this year after resigning from the Congress.

Mumbai Additional CP Paramjit Singh Dahiya confirmed the arrest of two suspects. "The incident occurred around 9:30 pm in Nirmal Nagar. Baba Siddique was taken to Lilavati Hospital after being shot. Two suspects have been arrested, and the Mumbai Crime Branch is investigating the case," Dahiya told reporters.

Bollywood actors, including Salman Khan and Shilpa Shetty, visited Lilavati Hospital in Maharashtra's Mumbai late Saturday



night to meet the family of former state minister and NCP leader Baba Siddique. Mumbai Police said that they recovered the weapon used in the crime. "A 9.9mm pistol was used in the firing," officials said.

One accused in Baba Siddique firing case sent to custody till October 21

A court in Mumbai sent Gurmil Singh, accused in the Baba Siddique firing case to Mumbai Crime Branch custody till 21 October on Sunday.

Mumbai police earlier today presented the two accused in the Baba Siddique firing case, Gurmil Singh and Dharmraj Singh Kashyap in Mumbai's Esplanade Court. Esplanade court has also directed to present the second accused again after conducting his ossification test. Notably, an ossification test is a medical procedure that estimates a person's

age by analyzing the degree of fusion of their bones. It's a popular method for determining age.

Speaking to ANI, the lawyer of the accused Siddharth Agarwal said, "The police produced the accused today. We objected to it and gave whatever grounds we could give to the court... The court considered all those grounds and one accused has been given custody till October 21. And the second accused will be produced again after an ossification test... The police asked for 14 days custody but the court has given a custody of 7 days... If the court thinks further investigation is necessary, it may grant further custody..." Meanwhile, Mumbai police said that the another accused has been identified in connection with the case. The name of the accused is Mohammad Zeeshan Akhtar.

Former Maharashtra Minister and NCP leader Baba Siddique, sustained two gunshot wounds

to his chest before being brought to Mumbai's Lilavati Hospital for emergency treatment, where he succumbed on Saturday night.

Following the incident, Mumbai police apprehended two accused Gurmil Singh, a native of Haryana and Dharamraj Kashyap from Uttar Pradesh in connection with the case. According to the police, the two accused were in Mumbai and were keeping a close eye on Siddique. The death of Baba Siddique has caused a political storm in Maharashtra. Congress leader and LoP Maharashtra Assembly, Vijay Wadettiwar questioned the law and order situation in Mumbai and asked if Maharashtra going in the direction of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in terms of crime over the killing of NCP leader Baba Siddique. Wadettiwar also sought resignation from Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis asking him to take responsibility for the incident. — ANI

RELIEF PACKAGES

200 tonnes of aid prepared as part of ‘UAE Stands with Lebanon’ campaign

ABU DHABI: The “UAE Stands with Lebanon” national campaign was launched on Saturday, with 200 tonnes of aid in 10,000 relief packages prepared by 4,000 volunteers as part of the UAE’s continuous efforts to provide relief and support to the brotherly Lebanese people and to mitigate the current humanitarian crisis in Lebanon.

Sultan Al Shamsi, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Development Affairs and International Organisations, said, “Embodying the UAE’s humanitarian principles and its deep-rooted fraternal values that call for solidarity and cooperation, we extend a helping hand to provide aid and relief to all those impacted by wars and conflicts. Our wise leadership’s urgent response addresses Lebanon’s difficult circumstances and meets their critical needs.”

He added, “The “UAE Stands with Lebanon” campaign affirms the solidarity of all parts of UAE society with the Lebanese people and continuously works to provide relief to those in need, including the injured and wounded. This national campaign carries a message of hope and solidarity with the Lebanese people.”

He highlighted the UAE’s swift response started with President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan directing the provision of USD 100 million in aid to the Lebanese people. also allocated USD 30 million of urgent relief packages to displaced Lebanese citizens in the Syrian Arab Republic.

These initiatives affirm the UAE’s leading global position to provide relief and stand in solidarity with brotherly Lebanon, reflecting the UAE’s historic and longstanding support for the Lebanese people. – ANI/WAM

Second round of polio vaccination campaign to begin in Gaza today

The campaign aims to vaccinate 591,700 children under the age of ten, utilising both mobile and fixed teams to ensure comprehensive coverage across the Gaza Strip

GAZA: The Minister of Health, Majid Abu Ramadan, said the second round of the emergency polio vaccination campaign targeting children under age ten in the war-torn Gaza Strip will begin on Monday.

The Ministry stressed that the success of the campaign hinges on the continuation of the humanitarian truce, which is essential to allow health workers to operate safely and ensure that families have access to the necessary vaccinations for their children.

The campaign aims to vaccinate 591,700 children under the age of ten, utilising both mobile and fixed teams to ensure comprehensive coverage across the Strip.

Israeli forces prevent students from reaching homes in Husan

Israeli occupation forces barred several students from the village of Husan, located west of Bethlehem, from reaching their homes and the end of the school day this afternoon.

Rami Hamamra, the head of the Husan village council, reported that the troops prevented stu-



dents from passing through the eastern entrance of the village after sealing it off tightly.

Earlier in the day, Israeli forces had stormed Husan, leading to confrontations with residents. During these confrontations, the forces fired live ammunition and tear gas, forcing local shop owners to close their businesses.

Additionally, movement for vehicles and residents was severely restricted, further escalating tensions in the area.

Meantime, Israeli occupation forces chased students from the nearby village of Kisan as they made their way home after school.

Ahmed Ghazal, the secretary of Fatah in Kisan, reported that the troops pursued the students on the main road following the conclusion of their school day.

Ghazal further noted that Israeli soldiers stormed the village, raiding several homes and subjecting residents to harsh inter-

rogations.

Vigil in solidarity with detained journalist Rasha Herzallah organised

The Palestine News and Information Agency (WAFA) organised a vigil on Sunday in solidarity with our colleague, journalist Rasha Herzallah, who is currently imprisoned in Israeli jails.

The event took place outside the agency’s headquarters in the city of Al-Bireh, in the central West Bank, and was attended by prominent officials and a large crowd of journalists and activists.

Among the attendees were Ahmad Assaf, General Supervisor of the Official Media, Layla Ghanam, Governor of Ramallah and Al-Bireh, and members of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, including Wassel Abu Yusuf and Bassam al-Salhi.

edented level of targeting journalists by the Israeli government.

The rally also addressed the broader targeting of official media, referencing attacks on media facilities in Ramallah and Gaza, and the rising number of violations by the Israeli occupation against journalists, which have exceeded 1,940 in the past year.

Wassel Abu Yusuf called for accountability for those responsible for the killings of journalists and emphasized the need for international legal action against Israeli perpetrators.

Qaddoura Fares stressed the importance of the journalistic role in documenting the realities of the Palestinian struggle, while urging a collective effort to maintain the flow of information despite the risks involved.

Herzallah was arrested on June 2, 2024, after being summoned by Israeli intelligence and is currently held in Damon prison. Her case represents one among many, with approximately 94 journalists detained since the onset of the current Israeli onslaught on Gaza.

Media campaign in U.S. cities highlights Palestinian rights

A coalition of pro-Palestine organisations in the United States has launched a significant media campaign featuring trucks equipped with billboards aimed at raising public awareness about the war crimes committed by Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people.

As American media outlets are perceived to show a marked shift in narrative, with substantial bias towards the misleading Israeli perspective on the ongoing atrocities in Gaza, these mobile billboards aim to counter that trend.

The campaign aims to shed light on the genocide being inflicted upon against the Palestinian population, a situation is supported by continuous American funding since October 2023, funded by US taxpayers. – WAFA

NORTH MACEDONIA

Europe’s most endangered butterflies sold online

PLETVAR: The Macedonian Grayling is one of Europe’s most endangered butterflies. It can only be found in one place in the entire world: the hills around the village of Pletvar in North Macedonia.

Its habitat measures no more than about 1.5 sq. kilometres (about half a sq. mile) and consists mainly of rocks and certain types of grass on which the Grayling feeds while a caterpillar.

The Macedonian Grayling is a pollinator, which means that it carries pollen from one plant to another. By doing so, it ensures the survival and propagation of a number of flowers that provide nectar not only for the Macedonian Grayling, but for other insects, too.

Each of these insects is a crucial part of a complex and fragile ecosystem, and their survival depends on the functioning of the system as a whole. The greatest threat to this ecosystem is human activity.

Insufficient protection

For example, five out of seven privately run marble quarries in the region are located directly within the Grayling’s habitat, further reducing its already small size and making it harder for the butterfly to survive. “I am worried, because human activity in this area – right where it lives – is increasing every day,” says entomologist Vladimir Krpac, who is an expert on the Macedonian Grayling. “It would be no surprise, if nothing significant is done, to lose this species that only lives in North Macedonia.”

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which has declared the butterfly “critically endangered,” declines in distribution or population size of between 6% and 30% have been recorded. Despite these alarming figures, no special measures are being taken to protect the butterfly.

That being said, the Macedonian Grayling has been protected by Macedonian law since 2011. As a result, special permits are required to collect it. These permits are only available to scientists.

But that doesn’t stop poachers. Due to the lack of protective measures and because the law is not properly enforced, collecting this



critically endangered butterfly is child’s play: Poachers simply have to stroll through the Pletvar hills and gather the Grayling. The specimens they collect are then sold to collectors online.

Just a few clicks away

It’s not hard to find samples of the Macedonian Grayling online. For less than €30 (just under \$33), collectors can purchase an illegally poached specimen without fear of any legal consequences.

“Banning hunting won’t solve anything,” a seller, who prefers to remain anonymous, told DW. “Amateur collectors will not be affected. This has been going on for decades, and there are still plenty of butterflies here. It’s like a fruit tree. Every year you harvest all the fruits, and next year there will be more.” Prof. Andreas Segerer, entomologist at the Zoologische Staatssammlung in Munich, Germany, confirms that poaching is not necessarily a problem when it comes to insects. Unlike amphibians or mammals, insects reproduce in their millions to secure their survival.

Even though entomologists like Segerer need dead specimens for their scientific work, he disapproves of collecting butterflies for anything but scientific purposes.

“Some collectors are motivated by the desire to possess a rare object,” he says. “I do not think that is a good motive for collecting, and in individual cases – such as per-

haps with this species, which is still very rare – this can harm its population.”

Legal loopholes

The reason why the Macedonian Grayling can be legally purchased within the European Union has to do with the way protection works internationally. While poaching, selling and exporting the butterfly is illegal in North Macedonia, distribution within the European Union is in fact legal.

The EU bases the legality of trade in animals and plants on CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The treaty was signed in 1973 in Washington D.C. and contains lists of species that are internationally recognised as endangered.

Any trade in animals or plants on this list is illegal in the EU and enforced by the Wildlife Directive. However, the Macedonian Grayling is not yet on this list. Although it has a good chance of becoming so in the future, a number of obstacles still have to be overcome before that happens.

Although the Macedonian Grayling is on the IUCN red list, which is a necessary requirement to be internationally protected by CITES, CITES has not yet made a final decision on the case of this endangered butterfly.

A blind spot for insects?

Despite the fact that pollinating



insects are crucial for the food supply of most living creatures on the planet, they are not on the radar of many environmentalists.

“I think there is a blind spot for insects at the moment, probably because they are not very charismatic,” says Audrey Chambaudet, who deals with questions of wildlife trade at the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) in Brussels.

Although Chambaudet considers the current legal framework for wildlife trade sufficient, she does feel it needs to be updated.

“I think from a legislative perspective, the biggest improvement we need is a revision of the [EU’s] Environmental Crime Directive,”

she says. Chambaudet hopes that by strengthening the system, prosecution of illegal wildlife trade can be made more efficient.

A change in European legislation would help

Ilaria Di Silvestre of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) agrees that the Environmental Crime Directive needs to be strengthened. But instead of regulating the import of animals on the basis of CITES alone, she would prefer to see a system that is aligned with the US’s Lacey Act.

“This is legislation that makes it a criminal offence to trade in spe-

cies that are protected in the country of origin,” she says. In the case of the Macedonian Grayling, that would mean that trade in this butterfly would automatically be illegal in the EU, without the need for meeting any further criteria.

All stakeholders agree that the loss of biodiversity has the potential to cause even greater damage than climate change. The loss of species within ecosystems – even if it is just the loss of something as apparently tiny as an insect – can have a major impact on the ecosystem as a whole, which in turn can have serious implications for all life on Earth – including humans. –nw

SPORTS

Pakistan axe Babar, Shaheen, Naseem for next two Tests

The hosts have called up the uncapped Kamran Ghulam, Haseebullah and spinner Mehran Mumtaz, as well as seasoned spinners Sajid Khan and Noman Ali

MULTAN: Pakistan have made wholesale changes to the squad for the second and third Tests against England.

In addition to Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah are also out of the squad and will play no further part this series.

A PCB statement said it had "taken into account the current form and fitness of key players" before leaving out the three players.

The decision to leave out arguably Pakistan's three highest-profile players is little short of stunning. Pakistan's chastening innings defeat after the first Test - following which captain Shan Masood criticised the bowling performance - was expected to result in several changes, though Masood and head coach Jason Gillespie called for continuity, and asked players to be backed. However, the newly formed selection committee, announced on Friday, has gone the other way.

Aaqib Javed, newly appointed to the selection committee, hinted at the players' loss of form as a reason for their failure to make the cut.

"We are confident that this break from international cricket will help these players regain their fitness, confidence and composure, ensuring they return in top shape for future challenges.

"They remain some of our finest talents with much more to contribute to Pakistan cricket.



We are fully committed to supporting them during this period so they can come back even stronger."

Pakistan have called up the uncapped Kamran Ghulam, Haseebullah and spinner Mehran Mumtaz, as well as seasoned spinners Sajid Khan and Noman Ali to the squad.

Having favoured fast-bowling-friendly conditions at the start of the season, the PCB appear to have



hamstring injury, bowled at full pace in the nets on Sunday in preparation for the second Test, which starts on Tuesday.

If the same pitch is employed - and there is still the chance one of the strips either side is settled on - it may also help Stokes' reintroduction into the England side.

The 33-year-old has missed four consecutive Tests and the main concern over his return would be the amount of overs he is able to bowl.

On a used pitch, England spinners Jack Leach, Shoaib Bashir and part-timer Joe Root can be expected to do the bulk of the bowling, taking the load off Stokes and England's other seamers.

It seems most likely Stokes would come into the England side for Chris Woakes. England may also check on the condition of pacemen Gus Atkinson and Brydon Carse following their workload in the heat of the first Test, with Matthew Potts on stand-by.

Stokes and Potts were two of only five England players that took part in optional training on Sunday, alongside Bashir, Rehan Ahmed and Jordan Cox. - Agencies

THIRD T20I



Samson sizzles as India pulverise Bangladesh

HYDERABAD: India drubbed Bangladesh on their final night of the tour on Saturday night to sweep the three-match T20I series 3-0.

The second-highest T20I score in men's T20Is, three short of 300; Sanju Samson's silken 40-ball century, Suryakumar Yadav's improvisation and power; and then the finish by the powerful lower middle order.

India's previous highest T20I total was 260/5 made against Sri Lanka in 2017 in Indore.

There was no respite for Bangladesh: 22 sixes (joint-highest for a Test-playing side) and 25 fours combined for the most runs in boundaries in a T20 innings, a record 18 overs went for ten runs or more, one of them went for five sixes, and three bowlers conceded 50 or more. Two of the 26 dot balls turned out to be no-balls, a catch

went down, and a run-out was missed.

After winning the toss and opting to bat, India set the tone early on as Sanju Samson (111, 47 balls, 11x4, 8x6), and skipper Suryakumar Yadav (75, 35 balls, 8x4, 5x6) left Bangladesh reeling with an explosive 173-run partnership off 70 balls.

Samson, in particular, was exceptional, bringing up his maiden T20I century in just 40 balls, the second-quickest century in the shortest format by an Indian - second only to Rohit Sharma's 35-ball century against Sri Lanka in 2017.

Tanzim Hasan Sakib had a tough day with the ball, conceding 66 runs, the most by a Bangladesh bowler in a T20I innings, surpassing Rubel Hossain's previous record of 63 runs.

India's total was the highest by a full ICC member and only

surpassed by Nepal's 314 against Mongolia last year.

India spinner Ravi Bishnoi delivered an impressive spell, taking three wickets for 30 runs in his four overs to stifle Bangladesh's middle order, while fast bowler Mayank Yadav took two wickets.

Bangladesh batsmen Towhid Hridoy (63 not out) and Litton Das (42) provided some resistance, combining for 53 runs, but their teammates failed to offer substantial support, as India's disciplined bowling and fielding restricted them to 164-7 in their 20 overs.

Samson has struggled for form since the T20I series in Sri Lanka in July, where he was dismissed for two consecutive ducks while his performances in the first two games of the series against Bangladesh were also underwhelming.

"I have also felt I can do much better but with playing so many games I know how to deal with pressure and my failures because I have failed a lot," Samson said reflecting on his previous struggles.

"I wanted to perform and wanted to show. The leadership tells me they back me no matter what... not just in words but in actions also. Last series

"I got two ducks and went back to Kerala thinking what will happen, but I'm here."

Captain Suryakumar Yadav added: "I think we've achieved a lot as a team. We said we wanted to have selfless cricketers and want to be a selfless team, enjoy each other's performances and that camaraderie is coming off."

Brief scores: India 297/6 (Samson 111, Suryakumar 75, Pandya 47; Tanzim 3-66) beat Bangladesh 164/7 (Hridoy 63, Litton 42; Bishnoi 3-30, Mayank 2-32) by 133 runs. - Agencies

RAPTOR RANGE

Own your Favourite Ford with Exciting Offer & Peace of Mind.

5

Years/ 100,000 km Service*

Years/100,000 km Manufacturer's Warranty**

Years/100,000 km Ford Roadside Assistance***

1 Year Registration®

Cash Gift Option Available®®

Offer valid from 6th September 2024 - 7th November 2024 on Ford models sold for personal use. This offer is not valid with any other promotions, on taxis, driving school, Rent-a-car usage, companies and any form of commercial usage and government purchases. *Service Package covering 10 services @ 10,000 kms service interval. ® First year registration on all models ®® Cash Gift Option Available on all models.

www.fordoman.com

For enquiries visit our showrooms / get in touch with us today:
MUSCAT-99327422/99238728, MAWALEH-99385022, SOHAR-92055369,
SUR-25546190, SALALAH-93220476, For fleet enquiries: 99886271/99426509

Arabian Car Marketing Co. LLC C.R.No:1052055

Take a test drive today!

ALIZZ, SHARAKAH PARTNER

Alizz Islamic Bank partnered with Sharakah, a premier SME development organisation in Oman, through its 'Alizz Business' value proposition, to launch an initiative that focuses on the SME's sustainable growth.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,765.60 points, up by 0.31% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.12% at 435.76 points. Voltamp Energy, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while Al Madina Investments, down 9.09%, was the top loser.

Oman's real estate deals exceed OMR1.9 billion

Fees collected for legal transactions amounted to OMR 43.7 million till the end of August 2024, comprising an increase of 0.2 per cent compared to the corresponding period of 2023

MUSCAT: The total traded value of properties in the Sultanate of Oman recorded a rise by 5.4 per cent by the end of August 2024 to reach OMR1,933,200,000 compared to OMR 1,834,800 over the corresponding period in 2023, according to the data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Fees collected for legal transac-

tions amounted to OMR 43.7 million till the end of August 2024, comprising an increase of 0.2 per cent compared to the corresponding period of 2023.

The traded value of sales contracts reached OMR 716.1 million till the end of August 2024, and the number of sale contracts increased by 0.9 per cent to 44,398.

The traded value of mortgage



contracts increased by 7.9 per cent till the end of August 2024 to OMR 1,207.8 million. Meanwhile, the number of mortgage contracts

reached 13,565 contracts with a value of OMR 9.2 million.

The number of properties issued by the end of August 2024 de-

creased by 4.9 per cent to 149,935, whereas the number of properties issued for GCC states citizens rose by 12.3 per cent to 985. -ONA

SUPPLY CHAINS

Oman, Uzbekistan sign MoU to explore business opportunities in logistics sector

TASHKENT: Asyad Group signed in Tashkent a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The memorandum deals with exploring promising business opportunities in the fields of logistics and supply chains between the two countries.

The MoU was signed by Shiekh Nasser Sulaiman Al Harthy, Deputy President for Operations at Oman Investment Authority (OIA), Chairman of Asyad Group's Board of Directors and Laziz Kudratov, Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The MoU aims to utilize the



expertise of Asyad Group in managing and operating land ports, railways, warehouses, air cargo, last mile delivery and e-commerce solutions.

The signing ceremony was at-

tended by Sayyida Wafa Jabr Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Uzbekistan and Eng. Abdulrahman Salim Al Hatmi, CEO of Asyad Group. -ONA



CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO introduces new requirements on sustainable and green financial practices for banking sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) issued a new circular aimed at strengthening the banking sector's resilience to climate-related risks. The circular emphasizes the importance of integrating climate risk management into banks' overall operations, from governance and strategy to risk assessment and disclosure.

The circular also emphasized the importance of a holistic approach to sustainability, encouraging banks to voluntarily adopt broader environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors, which can help them not only contribute to a more resilient and sustainable economy but also enhance their reputation, attract sustainability focused investors and mitigate potential risks.

"Climate change may pose significant risks to the financial sector, but it also offers opportunities to drive innovation and growth through sustainability," said Tahir al Amri, Executive President of the Central Bank of Oman. "This circular is an important step in aligning our banking sector with Oman's National Strategy for an Orderly Transition to Net Zero. By equipping our banks to manage climate risks, we are ensuring that they play an active role in supporting the nation's sustainability efforts and long-term vision for a resilient, low-carbon economy."

The circular also suggests banks to actively participate in sustainable finance initiatives by issuing sustainable/green finance



instruments, investing in sustainable assets, and offering green loan/financing products that support environmentally beneficial projects. Through this circular, the Central Bank also emphasizes the importance of capacity building of their staff to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to integrate ESG considerations into their work.

Additionally, banks can play a crucial role in educating customers and the general public about the benefits of sustainable financial practices. The circular applies to all locally incorporated conventional, Islamic, and specialized banks in Oman, as well as branches of foreign banks operating in the country.

Banks have been asked to assess their current practices against the circular's requirements and develop an implementation plan with a clear timeline, interim targets and milestones. This plan, approved by respective board of directors, should be submitted to the Central Bank of Oman by June 30, 2025.

The effective date and transitional arrangements outlined in the circular are designed for smooth implementation. Provisions related to the "integrity of sustainability claims and communications" will take immediate effect, ensuring transparency in environmental claims. Similarly, requirements related to governance, strategy, risk management, and additional recommendations related to ESG factors will be effective from July 1, 2026, allowing banks time to adjust their practices. Disclosure requirements will take effect on December 31, 2026, for financial statements prepared for 2026, ensuring consistency and accountability in climate-related reporting.

The CBO is committed to driving Oman's transition towards a low-carbon economy and has taken several initiatives, including integrating sustainability objectives into regulatory frameworks, reducing its own carbon footprint, investing in green assets and strengthening collaboration for capacity and awareness building.

Announcement

The Tax Authority would like to draw the attention of taxpayers who are subject to VAT and Excise tax to submit their returns for the third quarter of 2024, according to the forms prepared for this purpose through Tax Authority's Portal: www.taxoman.gov.om not later than **30 October 2024**. We hope that all taxpayers will abide and commit to the deadline of submitting.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Voltamp Energy, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while Al Madina Investments, down 9.09%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,765.60 points, up by 0.31% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.12% at 435.76 points. Voltamp Energy, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while Al Madina Investments, down 9.09%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 620 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 1.5 million, with more than 7.28 million shares changing hands. Out of 45 traded securities, 18 advanced, 14 declined, and 13 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 119K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 83K, followed by domestic investors for RO 35K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,843.56 points, up 0.12%. Prices of Sohar International Bank, Oman United Insurance, OMIN-

VEST were up by 1.41%, 1.22%, 0.87% respectively. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Al Sharqia Investment, Al Madina Takaful, Al Anwar Investment were down by 9.09%, 1.37%, 1.28%, 1.28% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,657.29 points, up 0.85%. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Dhofar Cattle Feed, Oman Fisheries, Oman Cement, Jazeera Steel Products were up by 10.00%, 9.68%, 2.94%, 2.63%, 0.36% respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Galfar Engineering, Oman Flour Mills, Oman Cables Industry were down by 3.23%, 0.81%, 0.41%, 0.19% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.7% before closing at 1,827.90 points. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Phoenix Power, Al Batinah Power, OIFC, Renaissance Services were up by 3.77%, 1.75%, 1.30%, 1.30%, 1.30% respectively. Prices of Al Jazeera Services, National Gas, Ooredoo, Oman Telecom were down by 6.40%, 5.95%, 0.36%, 0.10% respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,780.78	4,742.24	4,765.60	4,750.97	14.64	0.31
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,869.28	7,819.28	7,843.56	7,834.25	9.31	0.12
Industry Index	5,666.21	5,593.14	5,657.29	5,609.70	47.59	0.85
Services Index	1,832.00	1,815.16	1,827.90	1,815.17	12.73	0.70
MSX Shariah Index	436.94	435.70	435.76	436.26	-0.50	-0.12
MSX TRI INDEX	6,644.53	6,590.97	6,623.44	6,603.09	20.35	0.31
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,940.31	8,883.50	8,911.09	8,900.51	10.58	0.12
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,537.46	6,453.16	6,527.17	6,472.26	54.91	0.85
SERVICES TR IDX	2,131.82	2,112.22	2,127.05	2,112.24	14.81	0.70
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,066.88	1,066.88	1,066.88	1,069.59	-2.71	-0.25

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
7,287,478	1,499,930	620	24,630,854,446	18	14	13	45

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. RD	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	91,190	9,826	9	0.107	0.110	0.107	0.110	0.106	0.004	3.774	0.110	0.108	0.110	105,000,915	
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	8,000	3,120	1	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.380	0.010	2.632	0.390	0.385	0.400	0.100	129,040,357
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	1,516,127	217,936	41	0.140	0.145	0.140	0.144	0.142	0.002	1,408	0.144	0.144	0.146	0.100	803,123,463
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	108,277	41,736	29	0.384	0.390	0.382	0.390	0.385	0.005	1,299	0.390	0.390	0.420	0.100	92,199,900
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	6,000	468	2	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.077	0.001	1,299	0.078	0.077	0.082	0.100	52,641,220
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	21,401	1,679	4	0.078	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.078	0.001	1,282	0.079	0.077	0.079	0.100	56,438,101
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	10,000	2,500	2	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.247	0.003	1,215	0.250	0.242	0.250	0.100	25,000,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	10,000	1,160	3	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.115	0.001	0,870	0.116	0.115	0.116	0.100	17,400,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	831,203	288,649	50	0.347	0.351	0.343	0.348	0.345	0.003	0,870	0.348	0.350	0.348	0.100	232,561,168
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	10,000	2,830	3	0.283	0.283	0.283	0.283	0.282	0.001	0,355	0.283	0.285	0.288	0.100	35,346,128
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	217,613	64,376	18	0.296	0.296	0.295	0.295	0.294	0.001	0,340	0.295	0.295	0.297	0.100	227,209,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	14	1	1	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.000	0,000	0.056	0.056	0.058	0.100	20,655,383
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,248,000	325,056	23	0.260	0.261	0.259	0.259	0.259	0.000	0,000	0.259	0.259	0.260	0.100	194,158,839
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	45,000	3,465	5	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0,000	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	10,000	2,860	2	0.286	0.286	0.286	0.286	0.286	0.000	0,000	0.286	0.286	0.300	0.100	20,131,540
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	803,162	117,254	159	0.146	0.147	0.145	0.146	0.146	0.000	0,000	0.146	0.146	0.148	0.100	632,271,092
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	193,496	190,372	47	0.982	0.985	0.982	0.984	0.985	-0.001	0.102	0.984	0.984	0.985	0.100	738,000,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	10,150	2,792	6	0.280	0.280	0.275	0.275	0.276	-0.001	0.362	0.275	0.275	0.280	0.100	179,009,663
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	3,000	385	1	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.078	-0.001	1,282	0.077	0.077	0.085	0.100	13,475,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	30,000	2,160	2	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.073	-0.001	1,370	0.072	0.071	0.075	0.100	6,480,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	319,153	47,875	52	0.150	0.155	0.150	0.150	0.155	-0.005	3,226	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	33,000,000
Total	21	5,493,786	1,326,500	460												
Parallel Market																
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,000	385	2	0.385	0.385	0.385	0.385	0.350	0.035	10,000	0.385	0.361	0.385	0.100	31,340,059
OM0000001301	DHOFA FOODS AND INVESTMENT	100	7	1	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.062	0.006	9,677	0.068	0.060	0.068	0.100	13,442,031
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	88,500	5,184	7	0.058	0.059	0.058	0.058	0.057	0.001	1,754	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.100	84,830,885
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	300	29	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.001	1,064	0.095	0.090	0.095	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	10	10	1	1.036	1.036	1.036	1.036	1.030	0.006	0.583	1.036	1.036	0.000	0.100	71,484,000
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	25,000	1,225	2	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0,000	0.049	0.049	0.051	0.100	3,662,500
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	300,000	13,200	3	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.000	0,000	0.044	0.044	0.047	0.100	13,514,438
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	391,469	42,235	44	0.108	0.108	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.000	0,000	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.100	239,353,974
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,655	255	1	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.000	0,000	0.154	0.154	0.169	0.100	8,470,000
OM0000007407	DHOFA GENERATING	231,500	16,611	15	0.070	0.072	0.070	0.071	0.071	0.000	0,000	0.071	0.064	0.072	0.100	15,779,940
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	1,588	191	1	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0,000	0.120	0.114	0.130	0.100	60,972,426
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	7,929	20,879	6	2.634	2.634	2.630	2.630	2.635	-0.005	0.190	2.630	2.590	2.698	0.100	235,911,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	2,067	996	1	0.482	0.482	0.482	0.482	0.484	-0.002	0.413	0.482	0.000	0.525	0.100	75,795,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	34,073	4,185	4	0.124	0.124	0.122	0.122	0.123	-0.001	0.813	0.122	0.118	0.133	0.100	24,764,346
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	254,000	19,747	15	0.078	0.078	0.077	0.077	0.078	-0.001	1,282	0.077	0.077	0.078	0.100	16,337,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	208,990	13,384	18	0.065	0.065	0.064	0.064	0.065	-0.001	1,538	0.064	0.062	0.065	0.100	32,552,403
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	39,235	3,137	7	0.082	0.082	0.079	0.079	0.084	-0.005	5,952	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.100	6,715,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	46,590	8,835	4	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.203	-0.013	6,404	0.190	0.190	0.210	0.100	11,628,002
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	26,734	3,377	6	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.055	-0.005	9,091	0.050	0.051	0.055	0.100	4,250,000
Total	19	1,690,690	151,849	141												
WORLD TRADE EXPO																

India has \$117 billion untapped export potential

MUMBAI: India stands poised to unlock an estimated \$117 billion in untapped export potential as the upcoming World Trade Expo 2024 spotlights trade and investment opportunities across 30 countries and regions. The flagship event organised by the World Trade Center Mumbai and the All India Association of In-

dustries (AIAI), is set to take place from October 17-18, at the Arcade, Expo Center, WTC Mumbai. The fifth edition of the World Trade Expo will be inaugurated by HE CP Radhakrishnan, Governor of Maharashtra, who will serve as the Chief Guest and deliver the keynote address on the theme "Innovation for Sustain-

ability with Focus on Green and Renewable Energy." The inaugural session will also feature Ajay Shankar, Former Secretary, DIPPI, Government of India, and Distinguished Fellow at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). In the afternoon, a dedicated session on "Green & Renewable

Energy" will be held, where Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, will deliver the keynote address at 2 pm. The Expo will bring together ambassadors and trade missions from various regions, including the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia. -ANI

EXPERTS IN

All Kinds of home automation/Integration like Audiovisual, Lighting Control System, CCTV/ Access Control along with product consultation & expert advise on the above being taken care. Also all kinds of Electrical installation & maintenance taken care with at most professionalism.

Contact: 93387263, 92839679



LIFESTYLE

RESEARCHERS DISCOVER POTENTIAL NEW TREATMENT FOR LIVER FIBROSIS

Liver fibrosis is the formation of tissue scars in the liver due to chronic inflammation and injury. Over time, fibrosis can impair liver function and may lead to cirrhosis or even liver cancer.

A new study from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy provides light on the processes that contribute to liver fibrosis and proposes a unique therapy method for this prevalent and serious disorder.

The work, led by senior author Wen Xie, M.D., Ph.D., professor and Joseph Koslow endowed chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and co-first authors Hung-Chun Tung, graduate student, and Jong-Won Kim, Ph.D., postdoctoral associate, was published in Science Translational Medicine.

In this Q&A, Xie expands on the study's findings and discusses why new diagnostic tools and therapy options for liver fibrosis are critically needed.

Liver fibrosis is the forma-

tion of tissue scars in the liver due to chronic inflammation and injury. Over time, fibrosis can impair liver function and may lead to cirrhosis or even liver cancer. Those at risk include individuals with chronic viral hepatitis, obesity, diabetes and excessive alcohol use. Early detection and intervention are crucial to prevent progression to more severe liver disease.

Currently there are no FDA-approved drugs that specifically treat liver fibrosis. The only treatment option is to treat diseases that cause liver fibrosis in the first place, such as hepatitis, obesity, type 2 diabetes and alcoholic liver disease. Preventive measures include avoiding excessive alcohol, maintaining a healthy body weight and early screening for liver diseases to prevent fibrosis from advancing

to cirrhosis or liver failure.

HSCs are a unique cell type in the liver. When the liver is injured or inflamed, HSCs become activated and produce excess collagen and other extracellular matrix proteins. The accumulation of collagen and other extracellular matrix proteins leads to scar tissue formation and liver fibrosis.

This study identified the enzyme CYP1B1 as a biomarker and predictor of HSC activation and liver fibrosis in both patients and mice. Inhibition of CYP1B1 led to the accumulation of a sugar called trehalose, which we showed for the first time that trehalose has anti-fibrotic activity. Moreover, treatment of mice with trehalose, its analog lactotrehalose or CYP1B1 inhibitor protected mice from getting liver fibrosis.

It was surprising to identify a liver function of CYP1B1, an enzyme traditionally known for its functions outside the liver. Although the concentration of CYP1B1 in the whole liver is not high, this enzyme is uniquely and abundantly present in HSCs and thus plays an important role in HSC activation and liver fibrosis.

Liver fibrosis is a common, potentially deadly and costly liver disease that lacks FDA-approved drugs. Our findings are clinically important because we identified CYP1B1 as a predictor of HSC and liver fibrosis in patients, which may help with the early diagnosis of this disease. More importantly, we found that trehalose and lactotrehalose are potential novel drugs that could be used to treat liver fibrosis in the future. - ANI

SPORTS

ACC MEN'S T20 EMERGING TEAMS ASIA CUP

Varma named India A skipper for upcoming Oman tournament

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tilak Varma will lead India A in the ACC Men's T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup, which begins in Oman on October 18. Namboori Thakur Tilak Varma, who hails from Hyderabad in Telangana, got his maiden call-up for the Indian cricket team for the T20I series on the tour of West Indies. Apart from Mumbai Indians batter Varma, who's played four ODIs and 16 T20Is for India, the squad also features capped T20I players like left-handed batting all-rounder Abhishek Sharma (eight T20I caps), left-arm spinner R. Sai Kishore (three T20I caps) and leg-spinner Rahul Chahar (one ODI

and six T20I appearances). The rest of the squad can bank in their IPL experience with Ayush Badoni (Lucknow Super Giants), Ramandeep Singh (Kolkata Knight Riders), Prabhsimran Singh (Punjab Kings), Nehal Wadhwa (Mumbai Indians) and Anuj Rawat (Royal Challengers Bangalore) forming a strong batting contingent, while the bowling group comprises R Sai Kishore (Gujarat Titans), Hrithik Shokeen, Rasikh Salam (Delhi Capitals), Vaibhav Arora (Kolkata Knight Riders) and Aaqib Khan. The squad also includes all-rounders Nishant Sindhu, who was part of India's title-winning squad in the 2022 Under-19 World

Cup, and Anshul Kamboj, who caught the eye during the recent Duleep Trophy four-day games. This will be the first time the tournament will be played in the T20 format, with the five previous editions being held in the 50-over format. India had won the inaugural edition in 2013, while Pakistan won the title the last two times. In 2023, Pakistan beat India in the final to defend their title. Eight teams will participate in the tournament with four teams divided into two groups. All matches will take place at the Oman Cricket Academy Ground in Al Amerat. India 'A' are in Group B alongside Pakistan Shaheens, Oman and

the UAE, while Group A consists of Afghanistan 'A', Bangladesh 'A', Hong Kong and Sri Lanka 'A'. India 'A' began their campaign against Pakistan Shaheens on October 19, followed by facing UAE and Oman on October 21 and 23 respectively. The top two sides from each group will qualify for the semi-finals scheduled to take place on October 25, followed by the final happening on October 27. **India A squad:** Tilak Varma (capt), Abhishek Sharma, Ayush Badoni, Nishant Sindhu, Anuj Rawat, Prabhsimran Singh, Nehal Wadhwa, Anshul Kamboj, Hrithik Shokeen, Aaqib Khan, Vaibhav Arora, Rasikh Salam, R Sai Kishore, Rahul Chahar.



Ronaldo on target as Portugal sink Poland

The star forward has now scored 906 goals in his senior career for club and country

WARSAW: Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 133rd Portugal goal as they beat 3-1 Poland in the UEFA Nations League Group 1 match on Saturday. Captain Ronaldo hit the crossbar from close range before Portugal took the lead through Bernardo Silva. The Manchester City player volleyed in from a knockdown by Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes. Al-Nassr forward Ronaldo doubled the lead when he slotted in a rebound after Rafael Leao hit the post following a fantastic run. It was Ronaldo's third Nations League goal in three games, having failed to net once at Euro 2024. He was replaced by Diogo Jota in the 63rd minute. Portugal were looking comfortable in Warsaw until Piotr Zielinski smashed in a shot to give Poland hope. But Southampton defender Jan Bednarek scored a late own goal - sliding Nuno Mendes' cross into



his own net - to make Portugal's win safe. The hosts handed an international debut to Salford-born Maxi Ojedele. The 19-year-old, whose mother is Polish, joined Legia Warsaw from Manchester United in the summer - having had a loan spell with Forest Green last season. Portugal, who have won all three Nations League games, play Scotland - who have lost all three - at Hampden Park on Tuesday.

Zubimendi nets winner Martin Zubimendi's volley from outside the penalty area meant Spain's first home game since winning Euro 2024 was a victorious 1-0 outing against Denmark in the Nations League on Saturday. The European champions were heading for a frustrating draw until midfielder Zubimendi, who turned down the chance to join Liverpool in the summer, scored in the 79th minute. Zubimendi beat Kasper

Schmeichel with a first-time shot from about 22 yards which took a deflection before hitting the net, the Real Sociedad player's first goal for his country. Schmeichel will feel he should have done better, but the Denmark goalkeeper had frustrated Spain until that moment with two fine saves to deny captain Alvaro Morata. The Celtic keeper also kept out a decent attempt by 17-year-old Lamine Yamal before Zubimendi settled it in front of a sell-out



crowd in Murcia. There was a carnival atmosphere inside the ground before kick-off as Spain paraded the European Championship trophy they won by defeating England 2-1 in the final in Berlin on 14 July. **Croatia down Scotland** In Zagreb, Scotland remain winless in Nations League A as Croatia came from behind to triumph 2-1 in Zagreb and prolong Steve Clarke's side's 13-month wait for

a competitive victory on Saturday. Missing key players and on a run of one win in 14 games, Scotland battled well in a cagey match and thought they had snatched a draw in the 95th minute, but Kristijan Jakic's own goal was ruled out for offside against Che Adams in a dramatic finish. **Other results:** Group 2: Lithuania 1 Kosovo 2, Cyprus 0 Romania 3; Group 3: Bulgaria 0 Luxembourg 0; Group 4: Serbia 2 Switzerland 0. - Agencies

SHANGHAI OPEN

Djokovic overcomes 'issues' to set up final against Sinner



SHANGHAI: World No.4 Novak Djokovic will face Jannik Sinner in the final of the Shanghai Masters as he bids to win his 100th ATP title. The Serb overcame issues with his hip to beat USA's Taylor Fritz 6-4, 7-6 (8-6) in China to set up a final with Italian Sinner, who secured the year-end world No.1 ranking by beating Tomas Machac 6-4, 7-5 in the other semi-final. Djokovic, 37, breezed through the first set, displaying some of his best tennis of the season. But the 24-time Grand Slam champion's dominance slowed in the second set as he struggled with a hip problem. Fritz saved three break points in the fifth game of the second set, giving him a 3-2 lead. Djokovic, who had to withdraw from this year's French Open with a knee injury, was growing increasingly irate with the hip issue and called a medical timeout with

Fritz 6-5 up. The American sensed his opportunity to bounce back but Djokovic held serve to take the set to a tie-break. World No.7 Fritz held a 6-5 lead on serve in the tie-break but lost both of the following points, allowing Djokovic to serve out the match. "I had some issues on the court - physically - here today but managed to overcome it," said Djokovic. "It always takes it out of me, particularly towards the end of the tournament and at this stage of my career I'm doing my best to recover." Sinner made light work of Czech 30th seed Machac to become the first Italian to reach the final in Shanghai. "It's amazing," said Sinner. "It's something you dream of when you're a kid, when you're young." The final will be the eighth time that Djokovic has faced Sinner, having beaten the Italian on four of seven occasions. - Agencies

BOXING



Beterbiev is undisputed light-heavyweight champ

RIYADH: Artur Beterbiev beat Dmitry Bivol by majority decision on Saturday to become the undisputed light-heavyweight world champion as one of boxing's most-anticipated fights lived up to the hype in Saudi Arabia. In a contest that could have gone either way, Bivol, 33, won the earlier rounds with his superior movement and combinations. Fellow undefeated Russian Beterbiev, 39, was undeterred and forced his way back into the fight with relentless pressure and power punching. With scores of 114-114, 115-113 and 116-112, Beterbiev became the division's first undisputed champion since 2002, and the first ever in the four-belt era. "I feel not bad. I did not do good

today. I wanted to box with more quality," said a modest Beterbiev - who is now WBC, WBA (Super), IBF and WBO champion. Bivol was defeated for the first time in 24 bouts. "I am a warrior. I don't know, I did my job but I felt like I could do better but it was just the opinion of some judges," he said. In the chief support, Fabio Wardley retained the British heavyweight title with a spectacular first-round stoppage win over Frazer Clarke in a rematch of March's fight-of-the-year contender. Wardley, 29, landed a heavy, looping right hand to hurt the challenger and floored him with another ferocious right. A dazed Clarke admirably rose

to his feet but was in no position to continue as the referee halted the contest. Beterbiev's historic win in the Middle East undoubtedly cements his place as up there with all-time light-heavyweight greats, but in such a close and entertaining fight, there will be a clamouring from the boxing fraternity for a rematch. **Whittaker fight ends in draw** A light-heavyweight bout between Ben Whittaker and Liam Cameron in Saudi Arabia ended in the most bizarre draw after both men fell out of the ring. Olympian Whittaker suffered an injury from the incident and left the arena in a wheelchair before the scorecards were read out.

Whittaker was backed up onto the ropes in the fifth round but also seemed to pull Cameron towards him as the pair locked arms and tumbled over the ropes. With Whittaker laying on the canvas in agony, doctors attended to his ankle while the 27-year-old also appeared to complain about a back injury. The event in Riyadh is being governed under the jurisdiction of the British Boxing Board of Control, which rules that a fight stopped because of an accidental injury must go to the judges' scorecards. Whittaker and Cameron, 33, were each awarded a 58-57 score, with a third ruling it 58-58 draw, resulting in a split-decision technical draw. - Agencies

IN PICTURES



‘White Snake: Afloat’ reshapes traditional myths
This undated image provided by Light Chaser Animation, a leading Chinese animation production team, shows a poster of the animated film ‘White Snake: Afloat’. — Xinhua

Aerial view of Islamabad in Pakistan
An aerial drone picture shows the Pakistan Monument in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan. Islamabad sits between Margalla Hill and the Rawal Lake on the Potwar Plateau. Blessed with welcoming climate and beautiful scenery, it is dubbed the “city of gardens”. — Xinhua



Masterpieces by renowned Impressionists exhibited at Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam
A woman takes photos of an exhibit during the exhibition “Long Live Impressionism!” during the press preview at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The exhibition is held to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Impressionism, featuring masterpieces by renowned Impressionists of the late 19th century. — Xinhua



Sichuan golden snub-nosed monkeys at Baihe National Nature Reserve in Jiuzhaigou
Sichuan golden snub-nosed monkeys are pictured at Baihe National Nature Reserve in Jiuzhaigou County, southwest China’s Sichuan Province. — Xinhua

Shraddha Kapoor stuns in pastel lehenga at Lakme Fashion Week X FDCI Day 5
Shraddha Kapoor captivated audience as she took to the runway in style at Lakme Fashion Week X FDCI Day 5. She turned muse for Kalki in a beautiful pastel pink colour lehenga set adorned with intricate heavy embroidery. — ANI



Highlight of Jakarta Muslim Fashion Week
A model presents a creation from Benang Jarum during Jakarta Muslim Fashion Week (JMF) 2025 in Tangerang, Banten Province, Indonesia. — Xinhua



Amsterdam Canal Race
People take part in the Amsterdam Canal Race (Grachtenrace) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. As one of the city’s most iconic sporting events, this year’s race featured over 130 teams competing along a nearly 25km route through the historic canals. — Xinhua

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat recognised with Best Performing Company Award 2024

This accolade adds to the bank’s long list of achievements

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in Oman, has been recognized with the Best Performing Company Award in the Large- Cap category at the Alam Al Iktisaad Awards 2024, held at the Sheraton Oman Hotel. The ceremony took place under the auspices of Sheikh Sabbaa Hamdan Al Saadi, Secretary General of the Secretariat General of National Celebrations, and was attended by prominent business leaders, officials from public



joint-stock companies, the Muscat Stock Exchange, and key figures from the private sector. The award was received on behalf of the Bank by Ilham Murtadha al Humaid, General Manager of Corporate Banking at Bank Muscat. This annual event honours top-performing companies listed on

the Muscat Stock Exchange that have demonstrated exceptional growth. Bank Muscat’s continued strong revenue growth was driven by enhanced operational performance and effective asset and liquidity management, leading to an increase in net interest income. On this occasion, Ilham Mur-

tadha Al Humaid, General Manager of Corporate Banking at Bank Muscat, expressed her pride in the recognition, stating: “This award reaffirms Bank Muscat’s leadership in the banking sector and its excellence in delivering exceptional services and products to both individual and corporate clients. The Bank continues to align with the latest industry trends, providing sustainable value and contributing to smoother, faster, and more secure banking transactions through the adoption of new digital channels and modern technologies.” She added: “This accolade adds to the bank’s long list of achievements, and we will continue to offer top-tier banking services that meet the evolving needs of our customers. This is a testament to our commitment to the bank’s vision, “To Serve You Better Every Day.”



MCBS, QS team up for Arab region ranking

Muscat: The Modern College of Business and Science (MCBS) hosted the QS Workshop on Understanding QS University Rankings and QS Arab Region Rankings, an event aimed at enhancing the institution’s understanding of ranking metrics and improving the overall performance of Omani higher education institutions. The workshop, presented by Dr. Ashwin Fernandes, Executive Director – Africa, Middle East & South Asia, QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd, UK, was held on 10th October 2024, at the MCBS campus. Ami Rami Awad, Regional Manager - Africa, Middle East & South Asia at QS Quacquarelli Symonds, was also present at this workshop and shared his valuable insights. Key educators and administrators in higher education were brought together to discuss strategies for improving university rankings in the global and Arab regions. The event began with a warm welcome to participants and an overview of the workshop’s objectives, emphasizing the significance of university rankings as a strategic tool for institutional advancement. Dr. Fernandes delivered an all-encompassing introduction to the QS World University Rankings methodology, explaining key

indicators, their weightings, and offering a competitive analysis of global trends. This was followed by a session focused on the QS Arab Region Rankings, where participants explored the unique regional indicators that help position universities within the Arab world. The insights shared were invaluable for understanding the nuances of ranking performance, particularly in the Arab region. A key highlight of the workshop was the session on Strategies for Improving QS Ranking Performance. Dr. Fernandes presented best practices from top-ranked universities both globally and regionally, offering actionable strategies on how to enhance performance in key ranking metrics. This session also covered the importance of data collection and analysis, equipping participants with practical tools to improve their institution’s standing in future rankings. The workshop concluded with a group discussion, where attendees addressed the challenges their institutions face in improving rankings. This collaborative session allowed participants to draft an action plan with key steps and timelines aimed at elevating their performance in global and regional rankings.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

ahlibank raises awareness about cancer

MUSCAT: Honouring October as the month of breast cancer awareness, ahlibank recently held a dedicated initiative aimed at raising awareness about breast cancer among its female employees. The event was held at ahlibank’s head office in Wattaya. Breast cancer is a significant health concern worldwide, being one of the most prevalent conditions affecting women. In Oman, the Oman Cancer Association (OCA) and local charity organizations observe October annually as Global Pink Ribbon Month, conducting a range of activities

and programs aimed at spreading awareness about this disease. ahlibank is keen to support such matters that impact the broader community, and has participated this year under the slogan: ‘Support, Strength and Solidarity – together we make a difference’. As part of the month of awareness, several events were held to promote early detection, self-examinations, and prevention of breast cancer. ahlibank collaborated with medical professionals to conduct live mammogram testing in a truck provided by OCA at the Bank’s premises where employees

were able to do live testing. ahlibank believes this to be a collective effort, in that it is a shared responsibility to engage with employees and raise awareness on the matter. Moreover, a cancer survivor took to the stage and shared her story on how she overcame cancer, thus providing those present a look into the soulful journey of one who was able to recover from the disease. Jumana Al Hashmi, Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications at ahlibank, highlighted the bank’s dedication to raising awareness about critical issues like cancer, in which she

stated, “ahlibank holds cancer awareness of high import. The wellbeing of our employees is key, as we ensure them maintaining their best state of health by conducting periodic check-ups. In doing so, we foster a supportive work environment, one that enhances the strength and bonds amongst the employees of ahlibank.” ahlibank is keen to launch several awareness programs every year, such as cancer awareness programs, reinforcing its commitment to CSR initiatives that support the well-being of its people and the greater community.

DIGITAL SERVICE

Open your savings account with click via Dhofar Islamic mobile banking application

MUSCAT: Building on the success of the Dhofar Islamic digital onboarding service via the app launched last year, new customers now will get a debit card without issuance fee instantly when opening a Mudarabah Savings and High yield Savings Accounts at their convenience, following few easy steps. Dhofar Islamic continues to offer innovative banking solutions within its mobile banking application that meet the various financial requirements of customers, with exclusive features and added value benefits. Dhofar Islamic is constantly working to improve the features and services of the app to meet and exceed the needs of customers. The app enables users to complete the account opening process in just few minutes, saving them time and effort and enhancing their banking experience with Dhofar Islamic. Customers willing to open a new Mudarabah Savings Account or High yield Savings Accounts may download Dhofar Islamic Mobile Banking App, which is available for both iOS and Android smart devices, and follow the steps. In addition to the account opening, users may follow-up on the status of their application through Dhofar Islamic mobile App. This option is available for all Omani and



non-Omani residents of the Sultanate of Oman. Dhofar Islamic innovative Mobile Banking App is a full-fledged smart banking platform designed thoroughly with the utmost attention to detail to offer 24/7 convenience to users at their fingertips. New services and features are introduced constantly to give customers the ultimate banking experience they deserve. The App

is highly secure and is periodically enhanced with more safety and security measures. Dhofar Islamic mobile banking app is available on Android and IOS devices, with enabled face recognition, fingerprint login, and Touch ID. It encompasses many self-services, including viewing credit card PIN and revising the monthly payment percentage through the mobile banking app, and many more.

HEALTHCARE

Oman International Hospital launches comprehensive cancer care, including diagnosis, early detection and treatment

MUSCAT: Oman International Hospital announced the launch of Oncology Unit designed to deliver world-class cancer treatment and care to patients across Oman and the region. In response to the growing need within the Sultanate due to the continuous rise in cancer cases, and to support both the local economy and medical tourism, the Oman Oncology Center launched at Oman International Hospital. This center offers specialized and comprehensive oncology care, providing patients with world-class treatment options right here in Oman, eliminating the need to seek care abroad. Additionally, the renowned expertise of our team and the high standards of our facility will not only meet local demands but will also attract international patients seeking advanced cancer treatment. Oman International Hospital is keen to provide comprehensive medical care for oncology patients. From preventive measures and early detection to state-of-the-art treatments, it brings together a multidisciplinary medical team under one roof, which includes medical oncology, radiation therapy, and surgical oncology. Our certified oncologists are among the best cancer doctors in the region with decades of experience in providing a personalized



treatment plan that combines surgical intervention, chemotherapy, hormone therapy, targeted therapy, and immunotherapy. To ensure that all cancer patients receive world-class care and advanced treatment services, all cases will be discussed at the multidisciplinary tumor Board, where specialist oncologists discuss the cases. The team led by Dr. Bassim Al Bahrani (Senior Consultant Medical Oncologist), and the team consists of Dr. Hilal Al Rashdi (Senior Consultant Urologist), Prof. Ahmed Al Bulushi (Senior Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon), Dr. Mohammed Lamki (Senior Consultant Endocrinologist), Dr. Sultan Al Maskari (Senior Consultant Orthopedic surgeon), Dr. Amr Ahmed Redha (Consultant General & Endocrine Surgery), Dr. Ibrahim Al Alawi (Senior Consultant General and Colorectal Surgeon), Dr. Hussain

Al Baloushi (Senior Consultant Interventional Radiologist), Dr. Moza Al Kalbani (Senior Consultant Gynecologist), Dr. Yahya Al Azri (Senior Consultant Laparoscopic and Hepatobiliary Surgeon), Dr. Roberto Cayon (Senior Consultant General Surgery), Dr. Mohammed Al Azri (Senior Consultant General Surgery, Laparoscopic and Bariatric Surgeon). Marcelo Pereira, CEO of Oman International Hospital “As we open the doors to our new Oncology Unit, we are not just launching a facility; we are making a commitment to the patients and families in Oman. Our goal is to provide a comprehensive cancer care experience that combines cutting-edge technology with compassionate support. This Centre is a testament to our commitment to elevating healthcare standards and delivering hope to patients and their families.”

mai alkaline
pH 9.1 to 9.5
Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water

Hydrate Smartly

- ✓ Ultra-hydrating
- ✓ Revitalizing
- ✓ Energizing
- ✓ Electrolytes

800 71 222
9275 5522



ELEGANCE MEETS AFFORDABILITY

STARTING PRICE

RO **8,666**

MAZDA 6
2.0L



STARTING PRICE

RO **8,955**



MAZDA CX-5
2.5L

HURRY
BEST PRICE
FROM MAZDA EVER!
Valid till stock last

TEST DRIVE & WIN

VISIT A SHOWROOM

TAKE A TEST DRIVE

STAND A CHANCE TO WIN



BOSE
SOUNDBAR



BOSE ULTRA OPEN
EARBUDS



BOSE
SOUNDLINK FLEX



Visit the showroom and view it to believe it.

• Al Hail • Wattayah • Barka • Sohar • Nizwa • Sur • Salalah

Offer is valid between 8th September to 7th November, 2024 on base variants of all models of Mazda except CX-9. VAT extra. *Test-Drive and Win* raffle draw date is on 19th November, 2024. Raffle draw winners – 1st prize- Bose Sound Bar 600 (1 winner), 2nd prize- Bose Ultra open Earbuds (2 winners), 3rd prize- Bose Soundlink Flex Bluetooth speakers (2 winners). Vehicles shown are for illustrative purposes. Specifications subjected to change without notice. Offer valid only for private vehicles. Not available on fleet, Ministry & Taxi / Rental / commercial car purchases.

92888005
www.mazdaoman.com

SCAN TO
CHAT



SCAN TO
KNOW MORE

