

MINISTRY LAUNCHES MATRIX FOR PRIORITISING ROAD PROJECTS

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology has launched a matrix for identifying and prioritising road projects. The aim is to devise a methodology with clear-cut and approved standards for improving the governance system of road construction and maintenance projects. **>A2**



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HM RECEIVES WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM UGANDAN PRESIDENT

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a written message from President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda. The message is related to bilateral relations between Oman and Uganda. It also includes an invitation for His Majesty to attend the Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, scheduled to be held in Kampala in January 2024. **>A3**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Culture ministry launches Arts Award

1 The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth launched Arts Award 2023 covering three areas. The award can be contested by citizens and residents aged 18 years and above. **>A2**

WORLD Ceasefire takes effect in Sudan

2 Sudan's military and the rival Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group began a 72-hour ceasefire on Sunday aimed at calming more than two months of conflict. **>A6**

MARKET Oman ranks high in attracting startups

3 The Sultanate of Oman ranked high among the top ten countries in the MENA region in terms of markets that attract talents for startups at affordable costs and the abundance of investment capital. **>B1**

MAINTAINING A BALANCE FOR ATTRACTING QUALITATIVE INVESTMENTS

OMAN SEEKS TO EMPOWER SMES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A new ministerial decision issued prohibits activities from receiving foreign investments and limits them exclusively for Omani investors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With an aim to provide more opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) owned by Omanis, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion on Sunday updated the regulations for foreign capital investments.

The new decision of the Min-

istry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion prohibits certain activities from receiving foreign investments and limits them exclusively for Omani investors.

It aims at providing opportunities to Omani-owned SMEs to maintain and preserve national

identity. The ministry further said that this list will be updated at each stage to keep pace with the economic developments.

The decision aims at maintaining a balance between attracting qualitative investments and encouraging projects of entrepreneurs as the government seeks to

empower SMEs to boost the economy, said the ministry.

The ministerial decision No.364/2023 updates the list of prohibited activities for foreign investment and limits them to only Omani investors.

Article 1 stipulates that the activities mentioned in se-

quence numbers (60) and (63) be cancelled from the list of activities in which foreign investment is prohibited, attached to the aforementioned Ministerial Decision No. 209/2020. The sequence of the items contained therein shall be rearranged accordingly. **>A5**



Oman participates in Special Olympics opening ceremony **A4**



MOONSIGHTING CONFIRMED

Eid Al Adha announced in Oman

MUSCAT: The Main Committee on sighting the crescent moon of Dhul Hijjah 1444 AH has announced that the moonsighting was confirmed on Sunday evening. Thus, the first day of Eid Al Adha (10 Dhul Hijjah 1444 AH) will fall on Wednesday, 28 June 2023.

A statement to this effect was issued by the moonsighting committee at the end of its meeting held at the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs.

The main committee tasked with deciding on crescents of the Hijri months, was headed by Dr. Mohammed bin Said Al Ma'amari,

Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, in the presence of its members, who were: His Eminence Sheikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalili, Grand Mufti of the Sultanate of Oman, Eng. Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, Dr. Wa'el bin Saif Al Harrasi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Salim Al Akhزمi, a judge at the Supreme Court, Sheikh Abdul-Rahman bin Abdul-Sattar Al Kamali, a judge at the Supreme Court, and Sheikh Mohammed bin Salim Al Nahdi, a

judge at the Supreme Court.

According to the statement on Monday, 19 June, will be the first day of the month of Dhul Hijjah 1444 AH and the first day of Eid Al Adha (the 10th of Dhul Hijjah 1444 AH) will fall on 28 June 2023.

On this auspicious occasion, the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs had the honour to express the most heartfelt greetings to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, praying to Allah the Almighty to endow him with many happy returns of the occasion and wishing him good health and blessings. **-ONA**

TOURISM DESTINATION

Oman to host Hockey5s Asia Cup in Salalah during Khareef season

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Thousands of hockey fans cheered Asian heavyweights India and Pakistan as the players exhibited top-class skills during the Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023 final that kept the fans on the edge of the seat till the final hooter.

India edged past arch-rivals Pakistan 2-1 to clinch the prestigious title at the Salalah Sports Complex in Oman earlier this month.

Impressed by the organisational capabilities of the Oman Hockey Association (OHA) and the success of Junior Asia Cup, the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) awarded Oman the rights to host the inaugural Men and Women Hockey5s Asia Cup.

In exclusive remarks to *Times of Oman*, a top OHA official confirmed that the Men and Women Hockey5s Asia Cup will be held in Salalah from August 25-September 3.

He said: "This is a reward for our organisational and hosting



success of the Men's Junior Asia Cup. It was a grand success and what better way to end the tournament than witness a blockbuster final between India and Pakistan.

"We were not expected to host the Men and Women's Hockey5s Asia Cup, which will also serve as the qualifier for the FIH Hockey5s World Cup, to be hosted in Muscat in January 2024. However, with the onset of Khareef

season this month, we thought it would be a good platform to host and promote Oman as a tourism destination. The AHF was happy to award us the hosting rights."

The Khareef season in Salalah attracts thousands of visitors from the region. Salalah is transformed during Khareef as a green paradise.

A total of 24 teams, 12 men and 12 women are expected to take part in the inaugural Men and Women Hockey5s Asia Cup. It would also determine the three men and women teams from Asia who will qualify for the first edition of the Hockey5s World Cup in Muscat.

The Asia Cup is an open tournament and the teams expected to take part in it in Salalah World Cup Qualifier are India, Pakistan, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Sri Lanka.

Oman have qualified as host nation but will compete in the qualifier to get match practice. **>A2**

Notice

The Times of Oman would like to apologize for publishing an advertisement in the name of "Delaware Horizon" and its commercial agent in the Sultanate of Oman on 20, 21, 22 & 23 March 2023 (issues 48-18, 48-19, 48-20 & 48-21), as such Ad contained facts that do not have basis under Oman laws, and contained also an incorrect warning against the use of mobile phones by banks and financial institutions for payments and financial transfers.

The newspaper affirms its commitment to the legal and media controls as applicable in the Sultanate of Oman and to observe the exigencies of the public order. The newspaper calls on its readers not to circulate the above mentioned Ad and to consider it null and void.



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ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Ministry launches matrix for prioritising road projects

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology has launched a matrix for identifying and prioritising road projects. The aim is to devise a methodology with clear-cut and approved standards for improving the governance system of road construction and road maintenance projects.

This matrix will serve as a guide in prioritising the implementation, construction and restoration of roads, said the ministry, noting that the algorithm will facilitate decision-making prior to submitting the projects to authorities entrusted with approving annual government plans and related budgets.

The matrix seeks to ensure transparency and fairness in distributing road projects among governorates of Oman in a manner that also ensures the accomplishment of economic and social



CRITERION: The matrix seeks to ensure transparency and fairness in distributing road projects among governorates of Oman.

development objectives.

The matrix comprises six main criteria that are applied to projects listed among the ministry's priorities, namely the strategic criterion, the economic criterion, the social criterion, the technical

or engineering criterion, the environmental criterion and the construction and maintenance cost criterion.

This is in addition to sub-criteria attached to the objectives of each criterion. -OMA

DISCOVERING TALENT

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth launches Arts Award 2023

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth launched Arts Award 2023, which covers three areas: publicity films, animated films (cartoons) and soundtracks.

The award can be contested by Omani citizens and residents aged 18 years and above.

The award has a variety of goals. It seeks to discover talents, highlight innovative aspects, support the talents of university and college students, encourage young talents in the field of music and enhance cooperation between musicians, producers and directors to promote the industry and showcase new works of art.

Participants in the Animation Production Award are entitled to use computer animation techniques (2D or 3D), moving clay



or trimmed paper or traditional animation or stop-motion techniques. The publicity movies section of the award encourages the promotion of landscape in Oman, provided that a film in this category lasts not less than 3 minutes and not more than 5 minutes.

It is a condition that each film targets a tourist destination in any governorate of Oman which a contestant might choose to

highlight. The artwork should be unconventional.

As for soundtrack award, the ministry will provide the participants with the film material, once they register to the award through the prescribed form.

The participants will be contacted and provided with links for the soundtracks desired to be composed between 5 and 7 September 2023. -OMA

HOCKEY

< FROM A1 Match to draw huge crowds

The visiting teams can expect fog, overcast skies and temperatures hovering around mid-20 degrees Celsius and the new speedy format is expected to also draw huge crowds. The Hockey5s Asia Cup will also serve as a countdown for the OHA as they prepare to host the inaugural FIH Hockey

5s World Cup at the brand-new hockey arena at Al Amerat on the outskirts of Muscat in January 2024. So far, Oman have qualified as host nation for both men and women's events.

The men's European, African and Pan American Qualifiers for the World Cup have concluded.

Belgium, Netherlands and Poland (Europe), Egypt, Kenya and Nigeria (Africa), Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and US (Pan America) have secured berth for the Hockey5s World Cup in Oman. A total of 16 teams in men and women will compete in the opening edition of Hockey5s World Cup.

Actility & Modern Software Forge a Powerful Partnership in Oman

Actility Announces ModSoft as Premium Network Partner in Oman

"This partnership with Actility reaffirms our commitment to digital innovation and underscores our determination to bring world-class IoT network solutions to our customers in Oman"

Mohammed Habeebuddin, Managing Director of ModSoft.

Press Release – Paris, France – June 8th, 2023

Actility, a global leader in IoT connectivity solutions, has announced that Modern Software (ModSoft), an end-to-end IT & Telecom solutions provider, has become its Premium Network Partner in Oman.

Actility and ModSoft are jointly propelling the digital transformation journey of their clients to forge a unique innovation ecosystem in Oman. Actility selected ModSoft based on their demonstrated expertise in collaborating with major service providers to nurture the Internet of Things (IoT) ecosystem, which is centered on a value chain of connections of things, data, processes, and people.

Actility's Premium Network Partners stand out, as value-added resellers, excelling in consultancy, system integration, network and support. ModSoft, already a partner of Actility, has been instrumental in providing advice and technology, thereby facilitating IoT business models. The company has made a name for itself as an IT & Telecom solutions provider, offering its customers a wealth of expertise and further strengthening its authority in the Oman market for Low Power Wide Area Networks (LPWAN).

As a Premium Network Partner, ModSoft has knowledge about ThingPark Wireless, a modular, multi-technology (LTE-M, NB-IoT and LoRaWAN), secure and scalable IoT Platform, and ThingPark X IoT Flow. This empowers them to devise Telecom solutions that are tailored to suit customer needs. Actility and ModSoft have already made their mark by successfully implementing novel IoT use cases in the region.

About Actility: Actility is the world leader in low-power wide-area networks (LPWAN) industrial-grade connectivity solutions for the

Internet of Things. Actility provides its ThingPark™ platform and network technology to deploy, operate and maintain public and private wireless IoT networks within a unified, scalable and versatile network infrastructure. The vast majority of nationwide LoRaWAN® network service providers (over 50) and hundreds of large enterprises trust ThingPark™ all over the world. Through its subsidiary Abeway, Actility also provides patented ultra-low power tracking solutions. ThingPark

"We are excited to embark on this journey with ModSoft, aiming for a mutually beneficial and enduring partnership"

Olivier Hersent, CEO of Actility.

Market offers the largest selection of interoperable IoT gateways, devices and applications to simplify and accelerate deployment of numerous use cases. For more information, visit www.actility.com/contact.

About Modern Software: Modern Software LLC (ModSoft), a diverse company specializing in Software Development, IT Consultancy & Business Process Re-Engineering, ERP Implementation, System Administration Services, Cyber Security Services and

Telecom Solutions. Our Ethos binds us to deliver value to our customers through rigorous studies, applying cutting edge technologies and staying on-par with ever evolving best-practices. For more information/inquiries please visit www.modsoftoman.com/contact Or Contact – 24484548 / 96298257 Email: shahbaz@modsoftoman.com / info@modsoftoman.com

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BILATERAL RELATIONS

HM the Sultan receives written message from Ugandan president

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a written message from President Yoweri Museveni of the Republic of Uganda.

The message is related to bilateral relations between Oman and Uganda. It also includes an invitation for His Majesty to attend the Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, scheduled to be held in the capital Kampala in January 2024.

The message was handed over to Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi when he received in his office on Sunday Ambassador Adonia Ayebare,



Envoy of the Ugandan President and Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed march of the bilateral relations between the two countries and means of enhancing them in various areas to serve the joint interests. They also exchanged views on a set of regional and international issues.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs and a number of officials at the Foreign Ministry.

-ONA

Oman, Turkiye share a strong bond: Envoy

The defence exhibition was organised by the Presidency of the Turkish Defence Industries and aimed at enhancing military cooperation between Oman and Turkiye



EXHIBITION: Turkiye Ambassador Muhammet Hekimoğlu said that 17 Turkish military and defence industries companies attended the defence workshop.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman and Turkiye, which lies on the crossroads between Europe and Asia, have a long history of bilateral relations and efforts are on to grow the bond stronger, according to the Turkiye Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman.

Speaking at an exhibition of Turkish defence industries products, which was held recently in Muscat, Muhammet Hekimoğlu said: “The relationship of friendship and brotherhood between the Omanis and the Turks goes back a long way and I am proud to say that the friendship has grown with each passing day.

“The countries have supported

each other in times of need and stood by each other during good and bad times.”

The exhibition was organised by the Presidency of the Turkish Defence Industries and aimed at enhancing military cooperation between Oman and Turkiye.

The exhibition was held under the auspices of Brigadier General Mohammed bin Saleh bin Abdullah Al Abri from the Ministry of Defence.

Sincere thanks

Hekimoğlu said: “I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik for providing

a platform to introduce the Turkish defence industrial products in Oman.”

Latest equipment

The Ambassador said: “We organised this exhibition in coordination with Oman’s Ministry of Defence and the Presidency of Turkish Defence Industries with the aim of introducing the latest products and equipment of Turkish defence industries. Turkiye has made a lot of progress in arm and defence products manufacturing. We have advanced military drones, as well as land and sea military equipment and weapons.”

The ambassador pointed out that 17 Turkish military and defence industries companies attended this workshop, and they are famous locally and internationally for their unique products of high quality.

The Turkish Ambassador expressed his great satisfaction with the Omani interest in the Turkish military defence products.

“I hope this military cooperation between the two friendly countries, which we have had fraternal relations since a long time, will continue, and we will work tirelessly to develop our relations in all fields,” the Turkish ambassador added.

COMMENTARY



The mental sanctuary



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

Safe havens are two words that came to my mind very much uninvited. They just floated in and suddenly formed a mental picture. Like curious strangers, they probed deep but it took no time for them to form an impression.

It is the little sanctuaries that we build in the course of our routine that really matter. They cost nothing but effective when it comes to steer away from potential problems. There are asylums of convenience, if you like, but unlike physical sanctuaries tucked away deep in the woods, one is never far away from the hustle and bustle of city life. Let me give you a quick example. When I was held up in a traffic jam, a car in front stopped at the side so the driver could change the wheel. He was not pleased because his body language said it all. He dropped the spare wheel in anger and threw the jack in great exasperation. All that at the hazard of increasing the usual risks we all have for a sudden heart attack.

Some feet away, a labourer, who was taking a breather from digging a trench, watched him with a smile on his face. I bet he could not understand why the man was in a tantrum. As the traffic was at complete standstill, more drivers displayed the same intolerant characteristics. The blaring of horns was deafening. Everybody wanted to get out of the road quick.

The labourer emptied his bottle of water, wiped the sweat from his face and

returned the turban on his head. He calmly picked up his shovel and resumed his duties. He was completely switched off by the time the traffic began to move on. He was actually deep in his sanctuary while immersed in his work.

While speeding down the highway that day, I passed several mosques. I guess I was in that sort of mood. As I swished past another holy house, my mind drifted to deep theological thoughts. A house of God is the greatest sanctuary but yet it brings little consolation to many. It might be the automation of performing the ritual that takes precedence over the whole idea of seeking peace. In a way, a mosque brings you closer to God but the comfort of knowing that becomes pure academic after a while.

You cannot run to a holy place whenever you are faced with a difficult situation. It is not just practical. The problem is solved when you have a contingency plan. That contingency plan may include having a praying mat in the asylum of your mind.

It is what that labourer on the road had and what we drivers did not have while passing him. One, in a way, can dig a trench while deeply prostrating on a prayer mat in the presence of God. It is more than a substitute of actually being in the mosque, a place fully dedicated to worship. Little rooms of the mind where we can run to and fall in the cushion of mercy when the going gets tough. We all need those chambers to fall back on but not all of us know that they are there. Again, I must have said this before, but it is the people who have nothing to lose who have the set of keys to get in those rooms. The rest of us just can’t find them.

It all boils down to faith, I suppose. When you have none, you find any door slammed shut. It just purely hypothetical but the mind mainly works that way. How we behave in a certain situation is never certain but at least we should know where the exit routes are.

SESSION OF TALKS

Oman and Czech Republic review bilateral relations



MEETING: Omani side was chaired by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, while the Czech side was chaired by Radek Rubes, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. -ONA

MUSCAT: A session of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry on Sunday between the Sultanate of Oman and the Czech Republic.

The Omani side was chaired by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, while the Czech side was chaired by Radek Rubes, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

During the session, the two sides reviewed relations of the

existing cooperation between the two countries and means of developing them

Exchanged views

They also exchanged views on issues of common concern.

The session was attended by Munthir Mahfoudh Al Manthari, Head of the Europe Department, Juraj Koudelka, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Sultanate of Oman and officials from both sides. -ONA

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COMMENTARY

‘Oman’s Journey to Net Zero: An Environment for Enterprise?’

TEJARAH TALKS



MAYMUNA AL ADAWI

Director, Oman Business Forum & PPP, Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion

MUSCAT: Climate change poses an existential threat and while global initiatives and policies have emerged in response, the risks of climate action failure remain prominent in the coming decade. To avoid irreversible damage to both people and the planet, urgent and concerted actions for a green transition are imperative.

In this crucial endeavour, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play a pivotal role. Accounting for approximately 90% of firms worldwide and consuming 13% of energy used by businesses, SMEs possess significant influence in the pursuit of sustainable practices. Though their individual environmental footprint may appear modest, their cumulative contribution to industrial pollution is substantial, highlighting the immense potential of SMEs for driving green growth.

A recently released Tejarah Talks report titled “Oman’s Journey to Net Zero: An Environment for Enterprise?” emphasises the critical role SMEs play in Oman’s transition to a low-car-



bon economy - highlighting the importance of eco-innovation, eco-adoption and eco-entrepreneurship in harnessing the potential of SMEs to contribute to green growth.

With heightened awareness of their carbon footprint, an increasing number of Omani SMEs are proactively transforming their business models to embrace sustainable practices, explained Maymuna Al Adawi, Director, Public Private Partnerships at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion and organiser of Tejarah Talks.

“Their approaches include the provision of climate and

environment-focused services, as well as the innovation of new technologies and green products. By aligning operations with sustainability goals, local SMEs are positioning themselves as frontrunners in Oman’s journey towards achieving net-zero emissions”.

Al Adawi went on to add, “eco-innovation offers Omani SMEs an opportunity to leverage their entrepreneurial spirit and develop ground-breaking solutions that address today’s pressing climate change challenges. These efforts yield substantial benefits, not only in terms of protecting the environment but also through

the creation of new revenue streams and enhanced competitiveness. And by spearheading eco-adoption, local SMEs that develop sustainable technologies and practices can establish themselves as pioneers in the low carbon economy. This approach not only contributes to reducing industrial pollution but also delivers economic advantages, such as cost savings, increased operational efficiency and stronger brand recognition.”

Embracing eco-entrepreneurship, pointed out Al Adawi not only leads to commercial success but also reinforces Omani SMEs as agents of posi-

tive change, amplifying their influence and impact on Oman’s journey to net zero.

However, to fully unlock the potential of SMEs in the green transition, collaboration among government organizations, industry associations and financial institutions is necessary to create an enabling environment that supports and incentivizes SMEs to adopt sustainable practices. While targeted policies, financial assistance and capacity-building programs will equip SMEs with the necessary resources and knowledge to thrive in the low carbon economy.

The release of the Tejarah Talks report, “Oman’s Journey

to Net Zero: An Environment for Enterprise?” further underscores the significance of SMEs in driving sustainable practices and contributing to a net-zero future. By embracing eco-innovation, eco-adoption and eco-entrepreneurship, SMEs can power Oman’s transition towards a sustainable future.

Addressing climate change demands a collective commitment and SMEs are essential actors in this effort. “Together, we can transform the challenges posed by climate change into opportunities for investment, job creation and growth. The time for action is now,” concluded Al Adawi.

BERLIN

Oman participates in Special Olympics opening ceremony

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman participated in the opening ceremony of the 16th edition of Special Olympics World Summer Games in Berlin.

The official opening ceremony for the launch of the Special Olympics World Summer Games was held at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin under the auspices of Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, in the presence of Maitha bint Saif Al Mahrouqi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Germany.

The opening ceremony included many musical performances and fireworks which was attended by fans from different countries around the world.

The Norwegian duo “Madcon” performed the official song “Are you ready?”.

The Omani delegation will participate in 13 different sports and includes 36 players with physical disabilities and 9 partner players.

Maitha bint Saif Al Mahrouqi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman expressed her pride at the Omani Special Olympics participants and hoped they will perform well during the games.

She said that this large international gathering is a real opportunity to bring the people of the world closer together, exchanging their cultures, and highlighting the human dimension and its ability to achieve the impossible.

She added that people with disabilities in general are the real heroes, challenging their disability every day and that they are here today participating in this special international forum to make a mark.

The Ambassador affirmed that the Sultanate of Oman pays special attention to this distinguished group in society, and is aware that human beings are the building blocks of society.

She thanked the German government and the organising committee for this tournament and for its successful organisation.

For his part, Nayef bin Ahmed Al Shanfari, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Special Olympics Oman and Vice chairman of the Mission, confirmed that this participation is a great



moment, especially for the players, as it is an appropriate forum for players to gain experience and be in touch with other teams, in addition to developing their spirit of competition.

He said that the performance of the Omani Special Olympics delegation in the previous edition of the World Summer Games in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi, was good and they had won 12 gold medals.

Al Shanfari added that the Special Olympics movement focuses on purely humanitarian work, and it uses sports to serve people with

intellectual disabilities and contribute to their treatment.

He noted that the most important experience that players in this category go through is getting to know the different cultures that will contribute to refining their personality and integrating them into society.

Al-Shanfari called on families with people with intellectual disabilities to include this group in various sports due to their importance in improving the various aspects of lives.

In the same context, Asi Tur-



The Ambassador affirmed that the Sultanate of Oman pays special attention to this distinguished group in society, and is aware that human beings are the building blocks of society

heim, Vice Chairman for Competition Operations at the Special Olympics International, expressed her happiness with the participation of the Sultanate of Oman and various Arab countries in this event. She praised the great efforts made by the Sultanate of Oman with regard to the people with disabilities.

It is noteworthy that the players of the Omani Special Olympics delegation include: Ahmed bin Hamoud Al-Awimri, Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al-Azizi, Shadia bint Awad Al-Shukili, and Thuraya bint Mohammed Al-Shaibani in the athletics team.

As for the badminton game, the team includes: Ayman bin Khamis Bait Maksas and partner player Khaled bin Ali Al-Marhoon.

In the game of bocce ball, the team consists of Mohammed bin Suleiman Al-Abri and his partner Abdullah bin Suleiman Al-Abri.

The bowling team includes Dima bint Naseeb Al-Rawahi and Amira bint Abdulaziz Al-Raisah. The equestrian team consists of Khalil bin Ahmed Al-Rawahi and Fatima bint Muhammad Al-Harithi.

The unified football team consists of the players: Nayef bin Ahmed Al-Manthari, Ghaith bin Saeed Al-Shukaili, Saeed bin Saif Al-Majrafi, Amjad bin Mohammed Al-Hinai, Khalfan bin Abdullah Al-Rujaibi, Al-Moataz bin Mushass Al-Hashemi. The partner players are Rashid bin Awad Al-Maamari, Ghasan bin Talib Al-Yaqoubi, Youssef bin Hamad Al-Yaqoubi and Al-Salem bin Rashid Al-Maamari.

The weightlifting team includes Mohammed bin Nasr Al-Mukhaini and Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al-Balushi. Zaid bin Ahmed Al-Jabri will participate in the game of golf.

The roller-skating team consists of: Hammam bin Ahmed Al-Rawas and Melook Bint Saleem Al-Yahiya'i. The sailing team includes Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Wahaibi and partner player Saleh bin Mohammed Al-Raisi. In swimming, Mishal bin Saeed Al-Amri, Abdullah bin Ali Al-Shamsi and Maryam bint Abdul Hameed Al-Saeedi participate.

In the game of table tennis, Muhanad bin Suleiman Al-Siyabi Haitham bin Humaid Al-Manthari, and in tennis Karima bint Ali Al-Qasimi and Ruqayya bint Abdullah Al-Balushi will participate.

OLYMPIAD



Omani student wins medal at Olympiad

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman’s team won the bronze medal at the end of the Abu al-Rayhan al-Biruni International Chemistry Olympiad, which was held in the Republic of Uzbekistan, from 11 to 17 June, where the student, Al-Rabee bin Habib bin Hamoud Al Dhafri, won the bronze medal.

The Sultanate of Oman participated with a national team comprising four school students in the “Abu Al-Rayhan Al-Biruni International Chemistry Olympiad” in its first edition for the year 2023, which is held every two years in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The Olympiad included two tests, the first test is in the theoretical side and the second test for practice. The name Abu al-Rayhan al-Biruni was chosen for this Olympiad in appreciation of the active role in chemistry played by the scientist Abu al-Rayhan al-Biruni (362-440 AH), born in Uzbekistan in the ninth century.

The student Al-Rabee bin Habib bin Hamoud Al-Dhafri from Al-Hassan bin Hashim School for Post-Basic Education in Muscat Governorate expressed his joy after winning the bronze medal and said: “The feeling of success after all that effort and winning a medal that raised our name and the name of our country Oman high is indescribable. What an honour and pride it is for my name to be associated with the name of our Sultanate in winning international medals. The experience of participating in this Olympiad was wonderful and enjoyable.”



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SEVERAL COUNTRIES

Undersecretary of Foreign Ministry receives copies of credentials of envoys

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs received here on Sunday copies of credentials of ambassadors of several countries appointed to the Sultanate of Oman.

The Political Affairs Undersecretary received the following ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry in Muscat. — **ONA**



MINISTERIAL DECISION

New activities in which foreign investments have been prohibited

<FROM A1 Activity No. 60 in the Ministerial decision No. 209/2020 for specialised rehabilitation centres and Activity No. 63 involves rehabilitation homes where the foreign investor can now invest.

Article Two stipulated the attached activities are added to the list of activities in which foreign investment is prohibited, attached to Ministerial Resolution No. 209/2020. Bringing the total number to 96 activities for Omanis.

Article three said that this decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into effect from the next day to the date it is published.

The ministry further said that the new activities in which foreign investment is prohibited include operating poultry hatcheries (except projects with large production capacity), beekeeping, honey and wax production, marine fishing, slaughtering, rabbits and birds production (except projects with large production capacity), printing activity using copiers, computers and other office machines such as photocopiers or thermal copiers, transporting and selling non-potable water, and renting cranes operated by a worker.

The new activities in which foreign investment is prohibited also include, renting construction machinery and equipment, renting construction or demolition equipment, livestock except for projects with large production capacity, fish and marine animals, fish products, retail sale in stores of meat products, retail activity in stores specialising in fish and other seafood and their products, retail activity in stores of natural herbs, and retail activity in stores of medicinal herbs.

The activities in which foreign investment is prohibited also include the activity of retail sale in stores of birds, pets, ornamental fish and their accessories, the activity of towing vehicles, buying and selling lands and real estate and dividing them, managing and renting owned or leased



real estate (residential and non-residential), and the activity of building management (owned or leased), property valuation activity, building management activity (based on a fee or contract), real estate owners association management activity, and pet care services activity.

Article No.3 of the decision also stipulated that whatever contradicts this decision or contradicts its provisions shall be repealed, while Article No 4 of the decision stressed that, it shall be implemented on the day following the date of its publishing in the Gazette.

It should be noted that the list of prohibited activities for the foreign investors, which were previously banned, included making of Omani sweets, Omani daggers, retail sale in stores of Omani daggers, traditional weapons, handicraft products, and detailing tailoring and knitting Arab and non-Arab men's and women's clothing, tailoring of sports and military clothing, tailoring of the Omani KOMA, tailoring of women's Abayas, transporting and selling drinking water, repairing vehicle electricity, charging batteries, repairing and cleaning vehicle radiators, repairing tires and metal wheels, repairing vehicle scales, Vehicle washing and lubricating stations, changing vehicle oils, repairing car air conditioners, repairing sound exhaust for vehicles, cleaning and polishing cars, wholesale of fruits and vegetables, wholesale of cooking gas and liquefied petroleum gas filling stations, retail sale in stores of honey, vehicle fuel stations, and diesel filling stations.

Activities prohibited for foreign investors, which were previously banned, also include retail activity in stores of phones and their accessories, retail sale in stores of souvenirs, antiques and paintings, retail sale in stores of natural flowers and plants, retail sale in stores of pottery and handicrafts, and retail in stores of the sale of cooking gas, retail sale in specialised stores of silver and gifts, retail sale in stores of cards for telecommunication services licensed in the Sultanate of Oman, retail sale in stores of animal feed, and retail sale in stores of sacks.

The previously banned activities also include retail activity in stores of wedding supplies, retail sale in stores of fireworks, retail sale in stores of empty gas cylinders, retail sale in stores of wedding cards, and retail sale in stores of apiary supplies. , transportation of pilgrims and Umrah performers, transportation by trucks of cooking gas cylinders, loading and unloading of goods, customs clearance offices, valuation of canceled vehicles, commission insurance agent, real estate brokerage, labor offices (recruitment), employment offices, general cleaning of buildings, copying services and printing of documents and documents, and tracking offices transactions, installation and assembly of neon signs, management and operation of fuel filling stations, specialised rehabilitation centres, homes for the elderly, orphanages, rehabilitation homes, and other activities related to libraries and archives.

— Times News Service/With inputs from ONA



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REF: OFM/TD-23/-012
Tender for Ground & First Floor Head
Office Renovation



Oman Flour Mills SAOG, (OFM) invites specialized contractors to participate in our tender for the "Ground & First Floor Head Office Renovation" as per the scope of work.

Tender Documents: Bidders wishing to participate in this tender are required to provide all details of their company, contact details and bank details no later than the date shown below via email tender-civil@omanflourmills.com. Oman Flour Mills SAOG, (OFM) will send all the tender documents to participants after receiving a tender fee depositing receipt copy via email.

Tender fee shall be deposited directly to the Oman Flour Mills SAOG bank account as mentioned below,

Account Name: Oman Flour Mills Company SAOG
Bank: Sohar International
Account Number: 001020032407
Swift code: ISHROMRUXXX

Tender Ref no.	OFM/TD- 23 / -012
Tender subject	Ground & First Floor Head Office Renovation
Tender fee	RO.25/- (non-refundable)
Start date for tender collection	19.06.2023
Last date for tender collection	23.06.2023
Site Visit	03.07.2023
Last date for receiving the technical queries	06.07.2023
Closing date of the tender	12.07.2023
Mode of payment of tender fee	Bank Transfer
Email address for communication	tender-civil@omanflourmills.com
Company Grade	Excellent / Grade 1
Mode of submission	All bidders are required to submit their proposals addressed to the Chairman of Tender Committee and deposited in the tender box located at the reception of our Alzayt Investment building on the 12 July 2023.

- Vendor selection will be based on "best and final offer". OFM is not bound to select the lowest bidder.
 - Each bidder must leave a business card with contact details for required communication.
 - All tender communication must be addressed to: tender-civil@omanflourmills.com
 - Notwithstanding the specific terms in the Tender Documents, Tender fee is not refundable
- Bids submitted shall consist of 2 separate sealed envelopes (Technical & Commercial), with bidder name on each and tender reference number (OFM/TD- 23 / -012 (Ground & First Floor Head Office Renovation)).



Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defence invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date To Submit The Tender	Tender Documnet Price
SUPPLY OF RUBBER ROMOVER TRUCK FOR ROYAL AIR FORCE OF OMAN	15/2023	24/07/2023	31/07/2023	238 OMR

1. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.
2. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in oman

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UK CELEBRATES ANNUAL DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

Performers greet spectators after a lion dance during the 2023 UK Chinese Dragon Boat Festival in Salford, Britain. The festival also featured traditional Chinese lion dance, singing, martial art and calligraphy, making it great fun for spectators and participants. — Xinhua



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PHILIPPINES

All 120 people aboard ferry rescued after fire

MANILA: All 120 passengers and crew members aboard a ferry that caught fire at sea in the Philippines on Sunday were rescued, the coast guard said.

The fire has since been extinguished, the coast guard confirmed. "All those who were onboard the ferry are safe," Joy Gumatay, coast guard spokeswoman, said in a statement but gave no further details.

She said that the survivors were brought to the port city of Tagbilaran in Bohol province. An investigation is now underway, Gumatay added.

The M/V Esperanza Star caught fire early in the morning as it was traveling from Siquijor

province to Bohol province in the central Philippines, the coast guard said.

The coast guard released photographs and a video of the burning ferry that showed flames and black smoke billowing from two decks at one end of the ferry.

There were 65 passengers and 55 crew members on board, while the coast guard deployed two vessels for the rescue operation to help put out the flames, which raged for more than five hours.

An archipelago of more than 7,600 islands, the Philippines has a bad record for maritime safety, with vessels often overcrowded and many old ships still in use.

— DW

CYCLONE



11 killed by severe storm, 20 others missing in Brazil

BRASÍLIA: A cyclone has left at least eleven people dead in Brazil's southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, authorities said.

"According to the state branch of Protection and Civil Defence, 11 people died from the effects of the cyclone," the government of Rio Grande do Sul state said in a statement.

Governor Eduardo Leite said that a 4-month-old baby was among those killed.

Helicopter searches are being conducted for 20 people who have been reported missing amid torrential rain caused by the storm.

Deaths were reported in seven cities, the governor said.

"This first moment, since Thursday night until now, is especially to protect human lives, support and rescue people," Leite told the media at a briefing on Saturday with other authorities.

Thousands evacuated

The town of Caraa, which is home to more than 8,000 people, was among the worst hit with heavy flooding being reported.

"The situation in Caraa deeply worries us. It is essential that we can, in an organized way, quickly map the main affected areas and identify the people who need support," Leite said.

Nearly 3,000 people have been evacuated from their homes in a total of 40 municipalities of Rio Grande do Sul, according to the Civil Defence, LUSA news agency reported.

Several roads in the state continue to be blocked and flights to Rio Grande do Sul's main cities were cancelled all through on Friday.

Power outages were reported across the state

Meanwhile, Maquine, a municipality on the eastern coast, had received around a foot of rain.

Many residents from the affected areas have taken refuge in outdoor sports facilities in their towns.

Authorities have also issued landslide warnings in several areas. — DW

Ceasefire begins in Sudan ahead of key donor summit

Residents said the truce, brokered by the United States and Saudi Arabia, kicked off at 6 am and brought a lull in clashes in the capital, Khartoum

KHARTOUM: Sudan's military and the rival Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group began a 72-hour ceasefire on Sunday aimed at calming more than two months of conflict.

Residents said the truce, brokered by the United States and Saudi Arabia, kicked off at 6 a.m. local time (0400 GMT) and brought a lull in clashes in the capital, Khartoum, following battles and airstrikes overnight.

What has been agreed?

"The parties agreed that during the ceasefire they will refrain from prohibited movements, attacks, use of military aircraft or drones, artillery strikes, reinforcement of positions and resupply of forces, and will refrain from seeking military advantage," the US Embassy for Sudan said.

"They also agreed to allow the unimpeded movement and deliv-



ery of humanitarian assistance throughout the country," a statement from the embassy said.

Witnesses said airstrikes had intensified in the capital in the days preceding the latest truce. On Saturday, warplanes struck residential districts of Khartoum, killing 17 civilians, including five children, according to a citizens' support committee.

By Sunday morning, resident Salaheldin Ahmed told Reuters news agency that the fighting had stopped.

"The situation in Khartoum is calm, especially because last night there were airstrikes and it was terrifying," Ahmed said, expressing hope that the truce could be the "beginning of the end" of the war.

"We are tired," he said. "Enough of war, death and looting."

Khartoum becomes a war zone

War broke out in Sudan in mid-April following a long-simmering power struggle between de facto

President Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Vice President Mohammed Hamdan Daglo.

The two leaders failed to agree on a plan for a transition to elections under a civilian government four years after long-ruling autocrat Omar al-Bashir was overthrown during a popular uprising.

Plagued by looting

The conflict has turned the capital into a war zone plagued by looting, led to outbursts of fighting in other regions, and triggered a sharp

escalation of violence in Darfur in western Sudan.

More than 3,000 people have been killed and over 6,000 others wounded, according to Health Minister Haitham Mohammed Ibrahim.

The conflict has wrecked the country's infrastructure, leaving about 60% of health facilities across the country nonfunctional.

Large amounts of medical supplies were either looted or destroyed, leaving stocks low, according to the World Health Organisation. There have been numerous temporary ceasefires since then, but these have been repeatedly broken.

Donors asked to pledge \$3 billion

The latest truce has begun a day before an international donor conference to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population and Sudanese refugees in neighboring countries.

On Monday, Germany, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Nations will host the summit in Geneva that aims to attract pledges of funding for humanitarian relief in Sudan.

The UN says more than half the population of 49 million now needs humanitarian assistance within Sudan, requiring some \$3 billion in funding until the end of the year. It has also appealed for nearly \$500 million for the refugee crisis caused by the conflict.

According to UN figures, over 2.2 million people have been displaced by the fighting, including more than 500,000 who have fled to neighbouring countries. — DW

EVENT AT UN HEADQUARTERS

180 countries to take part in International Yoga Day

NEW DELHI: People belonging to more than 180 countries will participate in the Yoga Day event at the United Nations headquarters in New York which will be led by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sources said.

According to sources, this year's Yoga Day event will be special since PM Modi will be leading the celebration on a large scale. The event will witness prominent people from all walks of life. He will be joined by people from more than 180 countries. Eminent personalities like diplomats, leaders, artists, cultural icons, academicians, and entrepreneurs will be part of the event.

PM Modi will start his first state visit to the US on June 20. The visit will commence in New York where the Prime Minister



will lead the celebrations of the International Day of Yoga at the United Nations Headquarters on June 21. After celebrating Yoga Day in New York, the prime minister

will then travel to Washington D.C., where he will receive a ceremonial welcome at the White House on June 22, and meet President Biden to continue their

high-level dialogue.

President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden will host a State Dinner in honour of the Prime Minister the same evening, according to a

release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Joint sitting

Indian PM Modi will at the invitation of US Congressional Leaders, including Speaker of the House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy and Speaker of the Senate Charles Schumer, address a Joint Sitting of the US Congress on June 22.

On June 23, the prime minister will be jointly hosted at a luncheon by US Vice President Kamala Harris and State Secretary Antony Blinken. In addition to official engagements, the Prime Minister is scheduled to have several curated interactions with leading CEOs, professionals, and other stakeholders. He will also meet members of the Indian Diaspora.

— ANI

Antony Blinken holds talks with Chinese Foreign Minister during his visit to Beijing

China and US have expressed their hopes of improving communication although they have minimised the expectations of a significant breakthrough

BEIJING: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang in Beijing, in the highest-level trip by a US official to China in nearly five years, according to media report, adding, the visit aims to stabilise ties between the two powers, the report further added.

Blinken's two-day trip to Beijing comes during the frosty bilateral ties and follows the discovery of a suspected spy balloon above the US in February that caused him to delay the trip which was planned for the same month. China and US



have expressed their hopes of improving communication although they have minimised the expectations of a significant breakthrough.

US President Joe Biden did not emphasise much on the Balloon issue as Blinken was heading to China. "I don't think the leadership knew where it was and knew what was in it and knew what was going on. I think it was more embarrassing than it was intentional," Biden

told reporters on Saturday."

Biden further said he hoped to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping again after a long meeting in November on the sidelines of a G20 summit in Bali, as per Al Jazeera.

"I'm hoping that, over the next several months, I'll be meeting with Xi again and talking about legitimate differences we have but also how there are areas we can

get along," Biden said.

The two leaders are likely to attend the next G20 summit in Delhi in September. Moreover, the Chinese President has been invited to travel to San Francisco in November when the US hosts leaders from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) grouping, according to Al Jazeera.

Further, Blinken is likely to meet top Chinese officials and attend a

banquet at the state guesthouse in the Diaoyutai Gardens. A phone call between Blinken and his Chinese counterpart Qin Gang emphasised on the increased tension between the two sides.

Al Jazeera's Katrine Yu, reporting from the Chinese capital, said in a live report, "Beijing is looking for assurances from the US that it won't meddle in its domestic affairs, that it won't cross the red

lines of its core interests, particularly Taiwan."

But expectations of any breakthrough from the visit are very low, Yu added. "But that doesn't mean that it is not significant, especially as China's neighbours are very worried that the relationship has gone so bad that there is a danger of tensions spiralling out of control into some sort of open conflict," Yu said.

Before leaving for Beijing, Blinken spoke at a press conference saying that his trip had three main objectives — setting up mechanisms for crisis management, advancing US and allies' interests as well as speaking directly about related concerns, and exploring areas of potential cooperation, according to Al Jazeera.

"If we want to make sure, as we do, that the competition that we have with China doesn't veer into conflict, the place you start is with communicating," Blinken said.

Before departure, Blinken also met his counterpart from Singapore, a US ally, in Washington, who expressed hope that the US would stay as a global power while finding ways to coexist with a rising China.

Blinken's "trip is essential, but not sufficient", Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan said.



Protest against rail project turns violent

PARIS: Police and protesters clashed at a large demonstration in southeastern France against the construction of a tunnel through the Alps for a high-speed train service linking France and Italy.

A dozen police officers were injured in incidents involving the throwing of projectiles by protesters, according to Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin. In a tweet, Darmanin also thanked "the 2,000 police and gendarmes who mobilised to keep law and order."

Protest organisers also reported injuries among the demonstrators, with police firing tear gas after the projectiles were thrown. At one point protesters also blocked a main road.

Police estimated the number of protesters at 3,000, though organisers claimed 4,000 attended the demonstration.

The demonstration, which was unauthorised, took place near the village of Saint Remy-de-Mauri-

enne in the Savoie department.

Officials said more than 400 dangerous objects were seized, and that 96 people known by security services were sent back to Italy at the border,

What is the planned project?

The high-speed rail line project, which is supported by the European Union, is planned to eventually connect France's third-largest city of Lyon with the northern Italian city of Turin.

The train line is to feature a 57.5-kilometre (36-mile) tunnel through the Alps.

Supporters of the project, estimated to cost €26 billion (more than \$28 billion), say it will greatly reduce freight road traffic.

Its critics, however, maintain that it might causing devastating ecological damage to the Alpine environment, with springs already beginning to dry up amid the construction work. — DW

Switzerland holds referendum on net-zero climate law and higher corporate taxes

GENEVA: Swiss voters took part in referenda on Sunday on a new climate protection law and higher corporate taxes, with polls indicating that both measures will pass.

Parliament already passed the climate law, which aims to make Switzerland climate neutral by 2050 and reduce the impact on the country's iconic glaciers, which are melting away at an alarming rate.

But the right-wing conservative Swiss People's Party (SVP) has refused to back it, arguing that cutting climate-damaging emissions by 75% by 2050, compared to 1990, would cause energy prices to explode.

SVP leader Marco Chiesa last month criticised the "utopian" vision behind the bill, maintaining it would drive up energy costs by 400 billion Swiss francs (€447 billion, €4.08 billion) while having basically "no impact" on the global climate.

The SVP collected sufficient signatures to force the referendum vote under Switzerland's system of direct democracy.

Alpine glaciers melting fast

Backers of the plan argue that Switzerland will be hard-hit by climate change and is already seeing the effects of rising temperatures in the Alps.



Swiss glaciers experienced record melting last year, losing more than 6% of their volume and alarming scientists who say a loss of 2% would once have been considered extreme.

Opinion polls indicate strong support for the proposed law, the most recent by pollster gfs.bern put public backing at 63%.

Subsidies for renewable heating systems

The Swiss government is keen to promote the departure from fossil fuel use in heating with financial incentives.

Companies will also be supported to help them convert to climate-friendly technologies.

Over a period of 10 years, 3.2 billion Swiss francs are available

for this purpose.

Switzerland still imports about three quarters of its energy and the need to transition has been made more urgent by unstable supplies from Russia due to the Ukraine war.

In an attempt to bring down that share, the government is planning to allow companies to build large solar panel parks in the Alps, along with more wind turbines.

Climate activists had initially wanted to push for a total ban on all oil and gas consumption in Switzerland by 2050.

But the government balked at the so-called Glacier Initiative, drawing up a counter-proposal that scrapped the idea of a ban but included other elements.

Meteorologists have warned that climate change to exacerbate natural disasters in the Alps and hurt tourism revenues.

Corporate taxes to rise in line with rest of world

In the case of corporate taxes, the issue is the implementation of a decision by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to require international companies with sales of at least \$750 million to be taxed at a rate of at least 15%.

Many of Switzerland's 26 cantons have imposed some of the lowest corporate tax rates in the world, in what they often said was needed to attract businesses in the face of high wages and location costs.

The government estimates that revenues from the supplementary tax would amount to between 1.0 and 2.5 billion Swiss francs in the first year alone.

Basel and Zug, where large pharmaceutical and trading groups are based, would benefit most from higher tax revenues.

The latest opinion poll indicated that 73% of voters backed the plan.

Polling stations were due to remain open until 12 p.m. local time (1000 GMT), with most voters casting their ballot in advance.

Over 700 cyclone babies born in Gujarat

NEW DELHI: A total of 707 women gave birth to children during Cyclone Biparjoy in Gujarat, an official statement said on Sunday.

According to the information given by the Union Health Ministry, "During the cyclone Biparjoy in Gujarat, 1,206 pregnant women were safely shifted to different hospitals and health and wellness centres from the affected areas, out of which 707 women gave birth to children." "202 ambulances of 108 number were kept on standby in critical condition. 302 government ambulances were also deployed to take the injured to the hospital immediately. Along with this, complete preparations were made for emergency and all trauma facilities in 458 hospitals of the state. All doctors were on standby, so that if any injured person reaches the hospital they can be treated immediately," an official statement said.

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SPORTS

Sensational victory for Oman’s Al Zubair

 Omani driver and team-mate Schiller come up with an impressive performance to clinch race one in the third round of the International GT Open in Hungary

MUSCAT: Oman motor sports is on fast track. Days after the historic achievement of Ahmad al Harthy, who claimed a podium finish at 24 Hours of Le Mans in GTE Am category, comes another impressive result from an Omani driver.

Muscat-based Al Faisal Al Zubair produced a sensational performance along with his German team-mate Fabian Schiller to clinch the top spot in race one of the third round of International GT Open at the Hungaroring in Hungary on Saturday.

The Al Manar Racing by Get-speed Mercedes AMG GT3 started the race from third in the Pro class and Schiller stormed through the field in the closing laps of the second stint to overhaul his rivals and snatch a famous win.

The Al Manar Racing Mercedes finished 5.810 seconds clear of the second-placed Eastalent Racing Audi R8 of Simon Reicher and Christopher Haase. The Oregon Team Lamborghini Huracan finished third.

A delighted Al Zubair said: “It was a very good race today. Honestly, the car was amazing. The team did a great job and Fabi was the driver to give credit to, this time. I pitted from P4 and Fabi did all the hard work. But it’s another win and we are excited for the second race but the 20-second handicap will not be easy.”

International GT Open drivers took to the Mogyoród circuit for



a pair of one-hour free practice sessions on Friday. The Al Manar Racing Mercedes was classified in second place with a best run of 1min 45.078sec during a 28-lap opening stint. They came fourth of the Pro category in the second practice stint in warm summer racing conditions.

Al Zubair took the hot seat in the first qualifying session and the Omani posted a best lap of 1min 43.709sec to put the Al Manar Racing Mercedes into third place on the grid for the opening 70-minute race. The Oregon Team

Lamborghini Huracan GT3 Evo2, driven by Maximilian Paul, was the quickest of the Pro class cars.

Al Zubair took the wheel for the first stint of the race and climbed to second in his class and fifth overall after five laps. Maximilian Paul continued to lead the class by just over a second in the Huracan, while Martin Kodrić led outright in the ProAm Bonaldi Motorsport Lamborghini.

Schiller replaced Al Zubair for the second half of the race and the changeover saw the Mercedes crew temporarily drop down to

fifth in the Pro class and 19th overall. When all the replacement drivers were in situ, Schiller found himself in fifth overall and third in the Pro class heading into the remaining 28 minutes of the race.

Schiller managed to find a way past Andrzej Lewandowski in the Bonaldi Motorsport Lamborghini and climbed to fourth place. He then overtook Marco Pulcini in the AF Corse Ferrari and began to close in on Diego Manchaca and Pierre-Louis Choivet at the top of the leaderboard.

Schiller continued to close in on the leading duo and trailed by just 2.7 seconds with 19 minutes of the race to run. The gap was down to 0.709 seconds heading into the final quarter of an hour with the Oregon Team Lamborghini managing to hold off the Team Motopark Mercedes at the front of the field.

With eight minutes remaining, Schiller found a way past the Team Motopark Mercedes and moved into second position behind the Oregon Team car. The German then overtook the leading car to snatch the lead in sensational style. He began to pull away from then on and reached the chequered flag 5.810 seconds ahead of his nearest rival to seal a memorable win for Al Manar Racing.

CAFA NATIONS CUP

Oman to play for bronze medal

MUSCAT: A clinical 2-0 win for Oman over Turkmenistan on Saturday booked Branko Ivankovic's men a spot in the bronze medal playoff match of the 2023 CAFA Nations Cup. Oman will take on Kyrgyzstan on Tuesday where a win will secure the Red Warriors a bronze medal in the seven-nation tournament.

On Saturday, Oman's win was sealed by goals in each half at the Pakhtakor Stadium in Tashkent.

It was the first victory for Ivankovic-coached Oman side in the tournament following their opening match defeat to Uzbekistan and a draw against Tajikistan. Goals by Abdul Rahman Al Mushaifri (42nd) and Essam Al Subhi (76th) took Oman to four points and a showdown with Kyrgyzstan.

Uzbekistan topped Group A with nine points from three matches and will meet Iran in the final on Tuesday. Oman were second with four followed by



Tajikistan with two and Turkmenistan with one point. Iran topped Group B with six points, winning both the matches. Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan were the other teams in the pool with the latter finishing second with three points.

Uzbekistan warmed up for the final with a 5-1 win over Tajikistan in their concluding Group A tie on Saturday after booking their place in the final with a match to spare.

CRICKET WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

Zimbabwe thump Nepal; WI survive USA scare

HARARE: Zimbabwe secured a comprehensive win over Nepal while two-time champions West Indies were made to sweat in their win over USA in Group A matches on the opening day of ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2023 on Sunday.

Brilliant unbeaten centuries from Craig Ervine (121) and Sean Williams (102) helped Zimbabwe to an eight wicket win over Nepal. Chasing a target of 291 runs, Zimbabwe won with 35 balls to spare.

Earlier, Nepal were restricted to 290/8 at the Harare Sports Club. Top knocks from openers, Kushal Bhurtel (99) and Aasif Sheikh (66), set up a competitive total.

In the other game, West Indies secured a 39-run win over the USA with Gajanand Singh's ton going in vain. Batting first, West Indies were bowled out for 297 in 49.3 overs. USA were then restricted to 258 with Gajanand reaching his ton in the final over.

Brief scores: Nepal 290/8

(Kushal Bhurtel 99, Aasif Sheikh 66, Kushal Malla 41; Richard Ngarava 4/43, Wellington Masakadza 2/42) **lost to Zimbabwe 291/2 in 44.1 overs** (Craig Ervine 121 n.o., Sean Williams 102 n.o.)

West Indies 297 in 49.3 overs (Johnson Charles 66, Shai Hope 54, Roston Chase 55, Jason Holder 56; Saurabh Netravalkar 3/53, Kyle Phillip 3/56, Steven Taylor 3/53) **beat USA 258/7** (Gajanand Singh 101 n.o., Shayan Jahangir 39, Nosthush Kenjige 34 n.o.; Alzarri Joseph 2/68, Kyle Mayers 2/30).

Oman face Ireland today

Oman will begin their quest for maiden World Cup berth on Monday when they meet Ireland at the Bulawayo Athletic Club when Group B action gets underway. The match begins at 11am, Oman time.

In the other match of the same group, Sri Lanka take on the UAE at Queens Sports Club. Scotland are the other side in the group.



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'ALIZZ JR' PROGRAMME

As part of its efforts to constantly provide exceptional products and services, Alizz Islamic Bank recently introduced the 'Alizz Jr' value proposition for parents with children under the age of 15 at Avenues Mall.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,682.63 points, up by 0.03 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.34 per cent at 467.04 points. Construction Materials, up 9.62 per cent, was the top gainer while the Pearl REIF, down 3.94 per cent, was the top loser.

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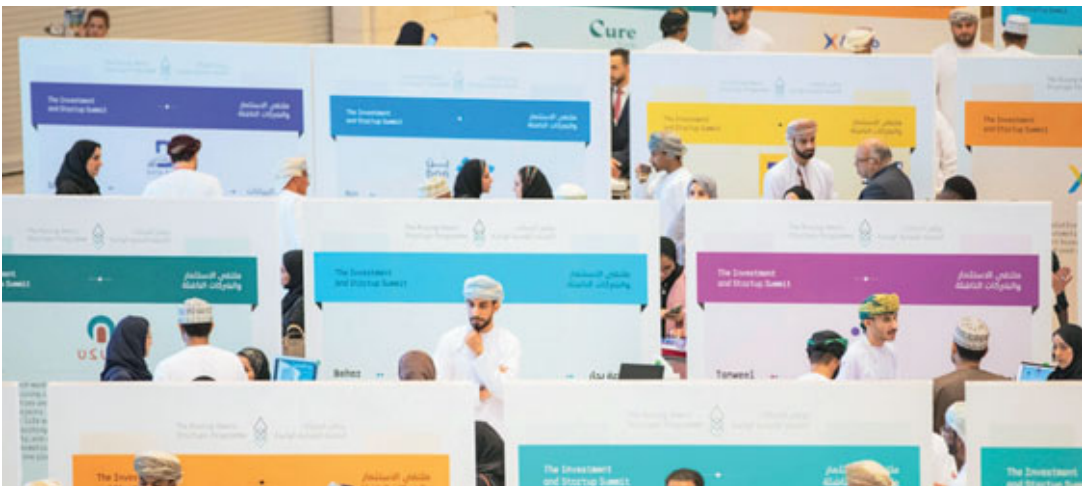
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Oman ranked among top 10 countries for startups

Oman also stands out among the top 15 countries in the development and efficiency of startup ecosystems, a report by Startup Genome Foundation said



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman ranked high among the top ten countries in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region in terms of markets that attract talents for establishing startups at affordable costs and the abundance of bold investment capital. Oman also stands out among the top 15 countries in the development and efficiency of startup ecosystems. The total market value of Omani startups exceeded \$300 million, according to a report issued by Startup Genome Foundation, an international organisation that specializes in developing start-

up ecosystems and innovation. The report focused on attractive opportunities for startups and investment therein, notably within three main sectors of e-commerce, clean energy technologies and financial technologies. The growth of these sectors is expected to gather momentum during 2025. The report highlighted efforts, programmes and initiatives undertaken by public and private establishments in Oman to promote startup ecosystems. The report underscores the significance of homegrown start-ups' inclusion in the global startup ecosystems report. This report constitutes an opportunity to elevate the

competitiveness of Omani startups, enhance their global status and augment their attractiveness by keeping pace with global trends and strategies that boost and motivate startups. These positive indicators underline the efforts being exerted, the existing partnership and the approach of integration among government institutions as part of their strive to advance Oman's startup sector. One of the fruitful outcomes of this approach was the launch of the "Promising Omani Startups Programme", which is chaired by HH Sayyid Bilal bin Haitham Al Said. The programme is supervised

by the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED) in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the Ministry of Economy and the ITHCA Group. The report explored a set of visions and trends about leading countries and cities of startups in the world, as well as global trends, challenges and opportunities available in this vital sector. The report is informed by extensive research and analysis of data belonging to more than 3 million startups around the world. -ONA

Oman's power and water production rises in March

MUSCAT: Preliminary statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that the total volume of electricity production in Oman until the end of March 2023 grew to 7,483.1 gigawatts per hour (GWh), up by 0.1 per cent, compared to the corresponding period in 2022. Al Dakhiliyah Governorate took the lead in high producers of electricity. It posted a 330.8 per cent growth to the volume of 7.8 GWh at the end of March 2023, compared to 1.8 GWh during the corresponding period in 2022. The governorates of Al Dhahirah, South Al Batinah and North Al Batinah registered a lumpsum growth of 2.6 per cent in electricity production at the end of March to 4,775.9 GWh. Meanwhile, the total volume of electricity production in the Governorate of Dhofar rose by 15.5 per cent to 942.5 GWh, followed in the upward trend by the governorates of North Al Sharqiyah and South Al Sharqiyah, which jointly posted a 12.2 per cent increase to 1,608 GWh. The Governorate of Musandam also saw a rise of 1.9 per cent, in electricity production to 71.5 GWh.

However, in the Governorate of Muscat, the total electricity production went down by 95.1 per cent to 22 GWh by the end of March 2023, compared to the corresponding period in 2022. Total electricity production in the Al Wusta grew mildly by 0.2 per cent to 61.5 GWh. It is worth noting that Oman's net production of electricity stood at 7,245.9 GWh. It covers the purchases of Oman Power and Water Procurement Company and Rural Areas Electricity Company, as well as production from auto generators and rented diesel units. The total water production in Oman grew by 2.4 per cent to more than 122 million (122,275,700) cubic metres till the end of March 2023, compared to the corresponding period in 2022. In the meantime, the volume of water production in the Governorate of Muscat grew by 3.2 per cent to more than 53 million cubic metres (53,150,400). In the Dhofar Governorate, water production rose by 5.2 per cent to 17,198,000 cubic metres. Other governorates registered a 0.7 per cent increase in water production to 51,927,400 cubic metres. -ONA

TRAINING PROGRAMMES



Oman Tourism College celebrates graduation of over 140 trainees

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Tourism College (OTC) celebrated the graduation of more than 140 beneficiaries from the training programmes under the auspices of Azzan bin Qasim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism. The training programmes included tourism guidance, hospitality, service and culinary. More than 100 trainees got the tourist guide licence, and 27 trainees received culinary certificates. In addition, 17 others were trained for international restaurant chains as part of the employment training programme. Sheikh Qais bin Zahir Al Hosani, Acting Dean of the Oman College of Tourism, said that the college seeks to supply the market

The training programmes included tourism guidance, hospitality, service and culinary skills

with qualified and trained cadres according to the latest international standards, through the use of in-house expertise in the field of tourism guidance, such as the International Federation of Tourist Guides, and linking them with theoretical, and practical aspects. He added that the college is

working on preparing an integrated training programme called the Najm Project, in cooperation with the Oman Tourism Development Company, (Omran), which aims to provide job opportunities in tourism entrepreneurship for 250 young men and women from various governorates of the Sultanate. **In various fields** For her part, Shafia bint Ali Al-Maliki, Director of the Training and Development Unit at the college, said: "The college provided training programmes between the second half of 2022 and the first of 2023, to more than 400 trainees in various fields." She indicated that the college is working with a number of agencies to provide a set of training programmes related to employment in the tourism sector.

Tender

Oman chamber of commerce and industry in Al Batinah North Governorate would like to announce the following public tender:

Tender No.	Tender Name	Tender Fees (irrevocable)	Specialized companies	Deadline for Obtaining Documents	Deadline for Tender submission
1/ 2023	Organizing and Managing Sohar Investment Forum	25 OMR	Companies specialized in managing and organizing international conferences and exhibitions	06 July 2023	16 July 2023

Companies specialized in managing and organizing conferences may obtain the tender documents from the Administration Department at the first Floor of the chamber's branch Al Batinah North Governorate, during the official working hours against the payment of tender fees.

Tender Terms:

- Provide valued CR,OCCI membership ,Tender Board membership and taxation certificate .
- Interested companies should enclose their bids a 1% Bank guarantee/ certified cheque of proposal value issued by one of the banks operating in Oman valid for 90 days from the deadline of submitting the bids addressed in the name of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The bids without this temporary guarantee will not be considered.
- The bids should be submitted in red waxed envelopes addressed to -Procurement Committee , OCCI, written outside the Number and title of the Tender. No indication about the bidder is allowed on the envelope.
- Offers should be deposited in the tender box kept at the Administration Department in the first floor of OCCI Al Batinah North Governorate branch.

OCCI is not bound to accept the lowest or any other bids. It has the right to accept or reject any bids without showing reasons.

Interested companies should submit the Tenders before 12 pm on 16/07/2023.

For further details, you may call 92620613 -91964531 dawood.reesi@omanchamber.om

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Construction Materials, up 9.62 per cent, was the top gainer while the Pearl REIF, down 3.94 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: TThe MSX index closed at 4,682.63 points, up by 0.03 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.34 per cent at 467.04 points. Construction Materials, up 9.62 per cent, was the top gainer while the Pearl REIF, down 3.94 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 290 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.31 million, with more than 5.78 million shares changing hands. Out of 49 traded securities, 16 advanced, 9 declined, and 24 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR95,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR90,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR5,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,621.65 points, up 0.09 per cent. Prices of Al Anwar Investment

and Sohar International Bank were up by 1.14 per cent and 0.99 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Al Batinah Development Company, Oman United Insurance and Ominvest were up by 2.33 per cent, 1.01 per cent, 0.78 per cent and 0.56 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,110.96 points, up 0.19 per cent. Prices of Construction Materials, A'Saffa Foods, Voltamp Energy, Oman Flour Mills and Al Maha Ceramics were up by 9.62 per cent, 1.72 per cent, 1.04 per cent, 0.77 per cent and 0.63 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics and Oman Cement were up by 0.74 per cent, 0.55 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.34 per cent before closing at 1,686.05 points. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, Barka Water & Power Company, Al Maha Marketing, Oman National Engineering and SMN Power Holding were up by 3.70 per cent, 2.63 per cent, 2.42 per cent, 1.91 per cent and 1.24 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,690.58	4,674.96	4,682.63	4,681.05	1.59	0.03
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,634.19	7,607.15	7,621.65	7,614.70	6.95	0.09
Industry Index	6,122.30	6,099.19	6,110.96	6,099.19	11.77	0.19
Services Index	1,686.05	1,671.22	1,686.05	1,680.40	5.65	0.34
MSX Shariah Index	467.04	466.75	467.04	465.47	1.57	0.34
MSX TR INDEX	6,166.72	6,146.18	6,156.27	6,154.18	2.09	0.03
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,316.21	8,286.76	8,302.55	8,294.98	7.57	0.09
SERVICES TR IDX	1,853.51	1,837.21	1,853.51	1,847.30	6.21	0.34
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,540.14	6,515.45	6,528.02	6,515.45	12.57	0.19

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
5,781,617	2,310,640	290	23,728,242,769	16	9	24	49

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 18

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MRTG	7,000	7,420	1	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.035	0.025	2.415	1.060	1.060	1.100	0.100	73,140,000
OM0000001192	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV.	22,460	2,382	3	0.106	0.107	0.106	0.107	0.105	0.002	1.905	0.107	0.106	0.107	0.100	16,050,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	10,000	820	1	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.001	1.235	0.082	0.073	0.081	0.100	16,370,119
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	385,200	39,190	13	0.102	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.001	0.990	0.102	0.101	0.104	0.100	468,186,354
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	5,896	1,898	4	0.320	0.322	0.320	0.322	0.320	0.002	0.625	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.100	1,770,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	43,967	12,190	4	0.275	0.280	0.275	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.270	0.280	0.100	455,294,979
OM0000002796	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	360	27	1	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.071	0.074	0.100	6,660,000
OM0000004440	BANK MUSCAT	672,598	177,567	24	0.264	0.265	0.264	0.264	0.264	0.000	0.000	0.264	0.264	0.265	0.100	1,981,688,824
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	708,575	688,731	30	0.972	0.976	0.968	0.972	0.972	0.000	0.000	0.972	0.968	0.972	0.100	729,000,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	45,451	2,862	8	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.000	0.000	0.059	0.059	0.064	0.100	11,800,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	101,000	38,401	3	0.382	0.400	0.380	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.390	0.400	0.100	94,564,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	164,630	59,596	5	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.000	0.000	0.362	0.362	0.370	0.100	235,641,811
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	5,684	472	1	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.082	0.084	0.100	14,525,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	28,204	10,154	5	0.360	0.364	0.360	0.360	0.362	-0.002	-0.553	0.360	0.358	0.364	0.100	119,114,176
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	268,200	95,926	14	0.360	0.364	0.350	0.356	0.358	-0.002	-0.559	0.356	0.350	0.356	0.100	237,938,092
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	219,475	59,272	3	0.272	0.272	0.270	0.270	0.272	-0.002	-0.735	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.100	59,400,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	5,000	1,281	2	0.257	0.257	0.255	0.255	0.257	-0.002	-0.778	0.255	0.246	0.255	0.100	25,500,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE	1,100	97	2	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.089	-0.001	-1.124	0.088	0.088	0.091	0.100	21,888,800
Total		18	2,694,800	119,810,4	124											
Parallel Market																
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	5,500	314	2	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.052	0.005	9.615	0.057	0.047	0.057	0.100	3,562,500
OM0000004893	AL SUWADI POWER	171,061	4,790	10	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.001	3.704	0.028	0.028	0.029	0.100	20,003,378
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	9,500	379	2	0.039	0.040	0.039	0.039	0.038	0.001	2.632	0.040	0.039	0.040	0.100	6,240,000
OM0000000847	OMAN REIT FUND	325,180	28,850	11	0.087	0.092	0.087	0.090	0.088	0.002	2.273	0.090	0.089	0.090	0.100	42,406,775
OM0000002804	A'SAFFA FOODS	25,000	7,375	4	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.290	0.005	1.724	0.295	0.291	0.299	0.100	35,400,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	4,500	401	3	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.088	0.001	1.136	0.089	0.087	0.089	0.100	17,800,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	741	72	1	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.001	1.942	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.100	7,696,067
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	402,100	211,496	3	0.522	0.526	0.522	0.526	0.522	0.004	0.766	0.526	0.524	0.526	0.100	82,845,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	453,126	137,304	76	0.302	0.304	0.300	0.304	0.302	0.002	0.662	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.100	234,140,800
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	680	1,353	1	1.990	1.990	1.990	1.990	1.985	0.005	0.252	1.990	0.000	2.000	0.100	178,503,000
OM0000001418	RAISUT CEMENT	39,605	6,772	7	0.171	0.171	0.171	0.171	0.171	0.000	0.000	0.171	0.169	0.174	0.100	34,200,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	4,900	279	1	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.056	0.057	0.100	17,507,341
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	4,000	500	1	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.000	0.125	0.100	11,250,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	3,499	651	1	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.000	0.000	0.186	0.183	0.000	0.100	362,688,289
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	638,002	612,482	3	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.000	0.000	0.960	0.864	0.000	0.100	91,200,000
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	604,000	55,701	15	0.092	0.093	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.092	0.093	0.100	24,272,823
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	2,200	418	1	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.190	0.184	0.190	0.100	38,567,425
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	202,000	19,190	4	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.099	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000004735	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	10	1	1	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.094	0.102	0.100	94,502,623
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	1,500	72	1	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.046	0.052	0.100	12,000,000
OM0000004925	AL BATAINAH POWER	32,074	968	1	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.000	0.000	0.028	0.028	0.030	0.100	18,986,848
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	20,000	3,017	2	0.150	0.151	0.150	0.151	0.151	0.000	0.000	0.151	0.150	0.149	0.100	252,080,910
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	5,578	747	1	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.000	0.000	0.134	0.133	0.000	0.100	10,119,948
OM0000002366	AL BATAINAH DEVELOPMENT & INV HO	60	6	1	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.099	-0.001	-1.010	0.098	0.098	0.108	0.100	2,940,000
OM0000001092	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	10,000	420	1	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.000	0.000	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.100	3,570,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	100,000	12,200	1	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.127	-0.005	-3.897	0.122	0.120	0.123	0.100	51,821,966
Total		26	3,064,816	1,105,687	157											

ALIZZ ISLAMIC BANK

‘Alizz Jr’ offers parents financial solutions to secure children’s future

MUSCAT: As part of its efforts to constantly provide exceptional products and services, Alizz Islamic Bank recently introduced the ‘Alizz Jr’ value proposition for parents with children under the age of 15 at Avenues Mall.

This comprehensive programme offers a wide range of attractive benefits and services designed to meet the unique needs of today's parents, while also promoting a culture of saving with a focus on securing a brighter future for the children. Parents/guardians can conveniently visit any branch of Alizz Islamic Bank to avail the programme's benefits.

‘Alizz Jr’ offers parents the opportunity to earn attractive profits on the amount they deposit in a savings plan that can be used for education/higher studies or future savings of the child. This will provide parents with flexible options for deposits and standing instruc-



Portugal triumph, Scotland stun Norway in Euro 2024 qualifiers

Ronaldo won his 199th national team cap as his side cruised past Bosnia-Herzegovina to maintain their winning streak

PARIS: Bruno Fernandes scored a brace as Portugal won in Euro 2024 qualifying on Saturday after Scotland produced a stunning late comeback to beat Erling Haaland's Norway in Oslo.

Portugal defeated Bosnia and Herzegovina 3-0 in Lisbon to make it three wins out of three in Group J, with Manchester City star Bernardo Silva opening the scoring a minute before halftime.

Fernandes headed in the second from a Ruben Neves cross in the 77th minute and scored his second, and Portugal's third, in added time.

Cristiano Ronaldo wore the captain's armband and played all 90 minutes as the 38-year-old men's international appearance record-holder won his 199th cap.

However, the forward now playing for Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia did not manage to add to his record 122 international goals - he found the net with a header midway through the first half only to be denied by an offside flag.

Portugal, who visit Iceland on Tuesday, are top of Group J with nine points out of a possible nine having scored 13 goals and conceded none.

They are two points clear of Slovakia, who beat Iceland 2-1 in Reykjavik with Tomas Suslov unwittingly scoring the winner 20 minutes from time after an Alfred Finnbogason penalty for the hosts canceled out Juraj Kucka's opener.

Luxembourg beat Liechtenstein 2-0 in the same six-team group, from which the top two sides qualify for the finals in Germany.



Scotland have three wins out of three in Group A following a famous victory over Spain in March by coming from behind late on to beat Norway 2-1 on Saturday.

It looked as if Norway would get their first win of the campaign after Erling Haaland was fouled in the box on the hour mark by Ryan

Porteous and converted the resulting penalty.

It was Haaland's 22 goal in 24 games for Norway, and he was taken off six minutes from time by coach Stale Solbakken with the job seemingly done.

But then Scotland equalised in the 87th minute when Leo Os-

tigard failed to deal with a John McGinn pass, allowing Lyndon Dykes to stab home.

And Scotland were not finished as they snatched the winner with a minute left, McGinn and Dykes combining to set up Norwich City's Kenny McLean to slot in, leaving Norway with just one point

from three outings.

Scotland, who went 23 years without appearing at any major tournament before going to Euro 2020, are now in a fantastic position on top of Group A, five points clear of Georgia and six ahead of Nations League finalists Spain.

They have played a game more than both of those sides, however, and welcome Georgia to Glasgow on Tuesday.

"Sometimes when it's your moment you just have to ride the wave. The boys believe in themselves and kept going," said Scotland boss Steve Clarke.

Georgia, coached by ex-France international Willy Sagnol, won 2-1 in Cyprus with Zuriko Davitashvili scoring the decisive goal late on.

That was after Georges Mikautadze's opener was canceled out by a penalty from Ioannis Pittas for Cyprus.

Belgium were held to a 1-1 draw by Austria in Brussels, with captain Romelu Lukaku turning and



firing in from the edge of the box just after the hour mark for the hosts. They had been trailing after Orel Mangala deflected a shot past goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois and into his own net.

"After the first goal we saw the heads go down, which is something we need to learn from because this team is young," said Belgium coach Domenico Tedesco.

"But in the end, I honestly saw good things as well."

Eden Hazard, the former Belgium captain who quit international football after the World Cup, attended the match and did a lap of honour around the stadium at half-time.

Belgium are three points behind group leaders Austria but have a game in hand. They are back in action on Tuesday in Estonia, who drew 1-1 with Azerbaijan on Saturday.

In other action, the Czech Republic cemented their position at the top of Group E after a 3-0 win in the Faroe Islands in which Vaclav Cerny scored twice. - **Agencies**

FIRST ASHES TEST: DAY TWO

Khawaja leads Aussie fightback with century

BIRMINGHAM: Usman Khawaja's maiden Test century in the first Test match of the Ashes on Saturday was an emotional one as he remembered the time when the crowd used to troll him for not scoring in England.

Khawaja displayed an excellent show in the first innings of Australia on the second day of the first Test. He scored an unbeaten 126 (279) as Australia trailed by 82 runs, scoring 311/5 at close of play.

"I genuinely do not read the media but when I'm getting sprayed (taunted) by the crowd as I'm walking out there today and as I'm going to nets being told that I can't score runs in England...I guess it was just a bit more emotional than normal," he was quoted by Sky Sports.

The 36-year-old talked about his celebration and said that it was to show that his performance in the last 10 years was not a "fluke".

"I think it [the celebration] was a combination of having three Ashes tours in England and being dropped in two of them. Not that I



have a point to prove, but it's nice to go out there and score runs for Australia and just to show everyone that the last 10 years hasn't been a fluke," he added.

"These young ones keep me young and make me realise that

there's a lot to life and a lot of good stuff, *Inshallah*, after I stop playing cricket. So, for me, it's just about enjoying it. My wife has been awesome to me, she's been my rock throughout my career," Khawaja said.

"That perspective makes it a lot easier for me to go out there and just play and try and enjoy it as much as I can, whether I get a duck or a hundred. Every Test match is a bonus for me because we thought my career was over. In

my head, it's the last [Ashes] tour I'll be on, unless I pull a Jimmy Anderson and come back when I'm 41," he concluded.

Australia were on the back foot after losing the early wickets of David Warner, Marnus Labuschagne, and Steve Smith to leave Australia at 67/3.

However, Khawaja and Travis Head built up a partnership for the fourth wicket. After Head dismissed Australia had put 148/4 on the board.

Alex Carey played a solid knock and scored unbeaten 52.

Stuart Broad was the pick of the bowlers for England, he took two wickets. Returning back to international test cricket, Moeen Ali also took two scalps. Captain Ben Stokes got one wicket.

England declared their first innings at 393/8 after electing to bat first.

Brief scores: Australia 1st innings 311/5 (Usman Khawaja 126 n.o., Alex Carey 52; Moeen Ali 2/124) vs England 1st innings 393/8 decl. - **ANI**

SERIES AGAINST BANGLADESH

Rashid Khan returns to Afghanistan ODI squad

KABUL: Star spinner Rashid Khan makes his return to the Afghanistan side for the three-match ODI series against Bangladesh after being rested for the one-off Test against the same rivals.

The ODI series will be played from July 5, *ESPNCricinfo* reported on Sunday.

Spinner Noor Ahmed, who was impressive in the IPL, has been dropped. He was a part of the team's last ODI assignment against Sri Lanka. Izharulhaq

Naveed, the leg-spinner who impressed in Australia's Big Bash League (BBL), earned a maiden ODI call-up.

The Afghanistan Cricket Board also chose 10 players who would make up the reserves for their next ODIs and the World Cup in addition to the team to play Bangladesh.

The reserves include Karim Janat, Gulbadin Naib, Naveen-ul-Haq and Darwish Rasooli.

Squad: Hashmatullah Shahidi (capt), Rahmanullah Gurbaz,

Ibrahim Zadran, Riaz Hassan, Rahmat Shah, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Nabi, Ikram Alikhil, Rashid Khan, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Abdul Rahman, Shahidullah, Zia-ur-Rehman, Wafadar Momand, Mohammad Saleem, Sayed Shirzad

Reserves: Karim Janat, Zubaid Akbari, Qais Ahmad, Ihsanullah Janat, Gulbadin Naib, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Naveen-ul-Haq, Farid Malik, Darwish Rasooli, Ishaq Rahimi. - **ANI**



INDONESIA OPEN

Indian duo upsets world champions in final



JAKARTA: Indian duo Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty clinched the Indonesia Open 2023 badminton title on Sunday after securing a 21-17, 21-18 victory over world champions Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia.

It marked the first victory of the Indian pair against the world No. 3 Malaysian duo.

Satwiksairaj and Chirag's impressive shot selection and quick reflexes allowed them to clinch the final.

The victory at the Indonesia Open was the sixth title for Chirag and Satwiksairaj on the BWF World Tour. Their last BWF title came at the Swiss Open Super 300 tournament in March.

They suffered an upset in their last tournament as they crashed out of Singapore Open 2023.

They managed to reach the final of the Indonesia Open 2023 by defeating the South Korean pair of Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae by 17-21, 21-19, 21-18 in the semifinal. - **ANI**

ROUND-UP

NBO wins Citibank’s STP Excellence Award

This achievement marks the sixth consecutive year that NBO has received this esteemed recognition, underscoring the bank’s commitment to excellence in the payments sphere

MUSCAT: National Bank of Oman (NBO) has won Citibank’s Straight Through Processing (STP) Excellence award.

This achievement marks the sixth consecutive year that NBO has received this esteemed recognition, underscoring the bank’s



commitment to excellence in the payments sphere.

The award highlights the bank’s high efficiency in formatting foreign currency (USD) payments, particularly in Treasury Payments and Commercial Payments, of which NBO managed to successfully achieve an STP rate of over 99.9 per cent and 98.5 per cent respectively.

Zahra Anwar Al Abdullah, Head of Investment and Treasury Operations at NBO, said, “At NBO, we are committed to enhancing our processes to ensure seamless customer experience. Receiving this prestigious award for the sixth time is a testament to the ongoing efficiency of our payments’ processing, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to excellence.”

Citibank, known as a premier provider of US Dollar payment services, plays a crucial role in facilitating financial transactions for numerous banks in the region.

The annual STP award recognises financial institutions that have successfully implemented fully automated dollar-dominated fund transfer platforms, enabling seamless electronic processing of foreign transactions. NBO has established long-term partnerships and strong relationships with renowned global banks, instilling confidence in its customers regarding the reliability of their financial transactions.

NEW OFFER

Bank Muscat launches waiver on credit card annual fees for first year

MUSCAT: To further enhance its pioneering role in providing the best banking services to all segments of society and to continue to implement plans and strategies to boost financial inclusion, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has launched a new offer on its credit cards.

Bank Muscat’s credit cards are an ideal choice for customers as they open a world of opportunities and unrivalled benefits, making them one of the most popular banking options in Oman. Credit cardholders can enjoy a number of benefits as well as safe and secure payment options for travel plans with family and friends in and outside the Sultanate.

Recently, the bank launched a special offer for customers, whereby those who apply for all eligible Bank Muscat Credit Cards will get a waiver of annual fees for the first year. The offer continues until August 31st, 2023 and is valid across both eligible Primary and Secondary Credit Cards.

This offer comes as part of Bank



Muscat’s strategy to provide special offers to customers and users of Bank Muscat cards in general and credit cards in particular. Bank Muscat cards contribute to enhancing the concept of electronic payment and completing various transactions, especially at times that require reducing the use of cash, such as travel, as credit cards offer more convenience and security with their multiple features.

On this occasion, Abdulnasir N Al Raisi, General Manager - Personal Banking, Bank Muscat, said: “We are pleased with the excellent response and feedback from the large number of customers, who are keen to take advantage of the various benefits of credit cards.

As the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, Bank Muscat is keen to provide a banking experience that is in line with customer expectations and global banking trends. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our valued customers for their continued confidence in the bank’s products and services.

“I also urge all our customers to take full advantage of the exclusive offer to get Bank Muscat credit cards to enjoy the travel benefits that come with them, especially with the advent of the summer holidays. I do hope that they have the best possible experience when travelling this season.”

In addition to the different benefits Bank Muscat’s credit cards

offer including free travel insurance, credit cardholders get to enjoy exclusive discounts across a wide range of services including lifestyle, health and beauty, entertainment, travel and hotel stays. Bank Muscat is currently running its international travel cashback campaign where all credit cardholders who spend OMR 100 or more will have a chance to win 100% cashback. The offer is valid till December 31.

Besides, and in line with its customer-centric vision ‘To serve you better, everyday’, Bank Muscat has launched a new service within its Internet and Mobile banking channels, which enables customers to submit applications for credit cards digitally.

The new service further expands the list of options available to customers through the bank’s various digital channels and enhances banking convenience leading to reduce waiting times when visiting branches.

The new features enable customers to apply digitally for a variety of credit cards.

REMARKABLE OFF-ROAD VEHICLE

MHD hosts INEOS Grenadier’s special off-road test-drive event



MUSCAT: INEOS Grenadier, the trailblazing automotive company committed to engineering durable and versatile all-terrain vehicles, invited automotive enthusiasts and industry experts to an exclusive test drive event.

This eagerly awaited event, from May 29 to June 1, served as a platform to unveil the INEOS Grenadier, a remarkable off-road vehicle engineered to conquer any challenge.

The well-attended event took place at The Drive Coffee (Oman Automobile Association) and gave attendees the unique opportunity to experience firsthand the power, capability, and craftsmanship of the INEOS Grenadier. The vehicle’s exceptional performance and its ability to thrive in rugged environments were showcased, solidifying its status as a true off-road icon.

The test drive event also featured

a series of engaging activities designed to immerse participants in the remarkable capabilities of this robust all-terrain vehicle. Attendees put the Grenadier through its paces in a variety of challenging off-road scenarios, including steep inclines, treacherous descents, and rough terrains, that allowed them to witness the vehicle’s durability and unrivalled off-road capabilities.

“We are thrilled that enthusiasts and professionals alike experienced the INEOS Grenadier firsthand,” said Mohsin Hani Al-Bahrani, CEO, Mohsin Haider Darwish Automobiles. “This vehicle represents a new era in off-road adventure, combining rugged design with cutting-edge engineering. The test drive event offered attendees the chance to witness the Grenadier’s remarkable performance, resilience, and versatility.”

The INEOS Grenadier has been

meticulously designed and engineered to meet the demands of adventurers, explorers, and professionals who require a vehicle capable of tackling the toughest challenges. With a robust ladder frame, superior ground clearance, and an advanced four-wheel drive system, the Grenadier delivers exceptional off-road capability without compromising on comfort or functionality.

This exclusive event also provided attendees with the opportunity to interact with INEOS Grenadier representatives, who were on hand to answer questions and share insights about the vehicle’s design, technology, and future developments. Participants gained valuable knowledge about the brand’s commitment to sustainable manufacturing practices and its dedication to producing vehicles that are built to last.

FINANCIAL SERVICES



Lulu Exchange opens 281st global branch at Al Khoud 6

MUSCAT: Lulu Exchange, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, opened its 39th branch in the country at Al Khoud 6 on Wednesday.

The branch was inaugurated in a hybrid event in the presence of Adebh Ahamed, Managing Director, Lulu Financial Holdings, Sheikh Mohammed Hamed Ali Al Ghazali, Director, Lulu Exchange, and other senior management joining from various parts of the world.

The new branch also marks

the 281st global branch of Lulu Financial Holdings and Adebh Ahamed, Managing Director of Lulu Financial Holdings congratulated the team on the milestone occasion.

“Our expansion is in sync with the growth of the Omani economy and reflects our ambition to bridge the gap between our services and the people of this great nation. The new branch at Al Khoud 6 will help us reach out to more customers while also promoting the use of digital pay-

ments in line with the country’s financial inclusion goals. We are fully committed to the growth prospects of the Omani economy, and are actively driving the future of the payments ecosystem by putting technology and innovation at the heart of all things new.”

Lulu Exchange presently provides cross-border payments, currency exchange and value-added services in a timely, transparent and reliable manner through its network of branches and mobile payments app, Lulu Money.

OFFER



Experience elevated luxury in Lincoln with exclusive benefits

MUSCAT: Lincoln enthusiasts can now own a Lincoln and enjoy elevated luxury with exclusive benefits. The benefits include service 5 years / 100,000 km and 1 year registration. The campaign will end on August 9. (Conditions apply. For details visit a Arabian Car Marketing Co. Wattayah.)

The Lincoln range in Oman includes Nautilus, Aviator and Navigator.

The Lincoln Nautilus is equipped with a turbocharged engine line-up. A 2.7-litre twin-turbo V6 engine boasts an AWD drivetrain with adaptive suspension and all-wheel drive disconnect. It delivers 335 hp and 515 Nm of torque and includes standard Auto Start-stop capability, plus a new eight-speed automatic transmission with SelectShift capability. It offers a luxurious environment besides delivering amazing SUV flexibility. The Nautilus offers a stunning exterior design with a new Lincoln signature grille, new tail lamps, and applique light bar, spoiler and upper rear fascia. Complementing the new design features and affording the Nautilus a more luxurious stance, is an all new wheel line up featuring 20” bright machined aluminum with premium painted pockets available for the Reserve trim.

The stylish and luxury Aviator is equipped with standard twin-turbocharged 3.0-litre V6 engine, paired with a 10-speed SelectShift automatic transmission. It delivers an impressive 400 horsepower and 562 Nm of torque for effortless acceleration. The Lincoln Aviator offers drivers an engaging drive with the Lincoln Drive Modes’ five signature settings – Normal, Conserve, Excite, Slippery and Deep Conditions. The Aviator offers the kind of capability premium clients require

in a three-row SUV, with available all-wheel drive. This feature allows owners to further customise their driving experience, while a 10.1-inch standard configurable LCD instrument cluster confirms their choices with beautiful, easy-to-read dynamic graphics and prompts.

The luxury family SUV – the Lincoln Navigator is equipped with a twin-turbo V6 engine that can produce 440 horsepower and provides smooth power whenever you need it, delivered through a 10-speed transmission. The Navigator combines modern luxury with advanced technology. Navigator’s lighter, high-strength aluminium-alloy body helps create a more refined ride. The Navigator is equipped with a clean and uncluttered interior layout, with a simple, soothing ambience. At night, interior ambient lights sequentially illuminate each of the SUV’s three rows.

During the day, a panoramic roof fills the cabin with natural light. Inside, spaciousness comes in all three rows, including storage in each to keep the cabin clean and organized. Occupants can enjoy available Revel® Ultima audio with 28 speakers that work in concert with Navigator’s interior design and acoustics. Standard SYNC® 4 enables clients to manage audio, phone, navigation and more from the vehicle touch screen or steering wheel-mounted controls. Second-row passengers have their own audio and climate control, while third-row seats feature power recline capability.

Customers wishing to own their dream Lincoln with exclusive benefits are encouraged to visit their nearest Lincoln showroom.

In Oman, Lincoln vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.

ROUND-UP

ahlibank offers enhanced benefits in auto insurance for customers

The comprehensive insurance policy includes a range of benefits for its customers, such as accidental collision or degradation, fire, natural disasters, theft, and deliberate acts of others, and comprehensive cover for vehicles up to 10 years old

MUSCAT: ahlibank, in its efforts to deliver more convenience and ease to its customers, has introduced comprehensive auto Insurance coverage in collaboration with Dhofar Insurance Company, with enhanced benefits for its esteemed customers.

With this new insurance policy, car owners can be stress-free knowing that their vehicles are protected against a variety of unexpected events.

The comprehensive insurance policy includes a range of benefits for its customers, such as accidental collision or degradation, fire, natural disasters, theft, and deliberate acts of others, and com-

prehensive cover for vehicles up to 10 years old. In addition to this, there are services which include extension cover with Orange Card, GCC extension cover, and dealer's/ agency repair cover.

Roadside assistance

With the policy, car owners are also aided with roadside assistance in case of a breakdown or any other emergency, ensuring that they are never stranded on the side of the road. With easy and fast claim processing and a seamless policy issuance process, auto insurance with ahlibank will provide customers with the services they need. These offerings give them



peace of mind and ensure that they are fully protected in any situation.

Muneer Al Balushi – AGM-Head of Retail Distribution, ahli-

bank, said, “We are committed to providing the best possible solutions to our customers and we understand that car owners need

more than just insurance cover-

age, they need a partner who can support them in times of need. Our comprehensive auto insurance

policy is designed to provide our customers with the support and protection they need to drive with confidence. The insurance policy curated by the bank caters to the diverse needs of vehicle owners, ensuring that they are adequately protected in case of any unforeseen events.”

Third-party cover

Aside from the comprehensive coverage options, ahlibank Auto Insurance Conventional, in collaboration with Dhofar Insurance Company, also offers third-party cover that protects against death, bodily injury, material damage, medical expenses and personal accidents. This feature ensures that car owners are protected against any liabilities that may arise from accidents involving third parties. And that's not all; by providing attractive rates, a hassle-free documentation process and quick turnaround time, motor insurance is available conveniently across all of ahlibank's branches.

With its comprehensive coverage and range of benefits, ahlibank's new auto insurance policy is the ideal solution for car owners who want to protect their vehicles and enjoy carefree while on the road.

AL HAYAT INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

Urinary tract infection in children

MUSCAT: Al Hayat International Hospital's Dr Pallavi Todase, Specialist, Paediatrics, MBBS, MD, DNB talks about urine infection in children.



What is UTI?

Urinary tract infection (UTI) is an infection involving any part of the urinary tract from the kidneys (urine-forming organs) to the urethra (the tube through which the urine passes out of the body).

How common is UTI?

It is fairly common in children and is usually not serious. Generally, it is more common in girls than in boys. This is because of the anatomical proximity of the urinary area to the faecal area in girls. It is more common in babies who are still in nappies.



Dr Pallavi Todase

What causes UTI?

Most often it is caused by bacteria residing in the gut. Improper hygiene is one of the most common causes of UTI. If the poop comes in contact with the genital area, bacteria may enter the urinary system and cause infection.

Constipation is another important reason which causes UTI in children. Constipated bowel may cause pressure on the bladder, which causes improper bladder emptying. Not drinking enough water also increases the risk of UTI.

Bladder bowel dysfunction: This occurs commonly in children who are toilet trained, but who don't empty the bladder frequently in an attempt to stay dry. It's common in children who avoid using toilets other than at home for peeing.

Rarely, UTIs can be because of some serious causes like abnormalities of the urinary tract, vesicoureteral reflux (a condition where the urine flows back into the kidneys) etc., which needs evaluation by specialists.

while passing urine, vomiting, or decreased playfulness. Elder children may have burning or pain when they pee or may have tummy aches, fever, blood in urine etc.

What to do when you suspect UTI?

If the child has any of the above symptoms, please see your paediatrician. Most of the time, UTIs can be diagnosed with a urine test, but occasionally depending on the case, the child may need blood tests or an ultrasound of the kidneys.

As far as treatment is concerned, most of the cases are completely treatable with proper course of antibiotics.

How to prevent UTI?

Teaching children to maintain proper genital hygiene, by cleaning the area in a way that the poo does not come in contact with the urinary area is important. Also, avoid constipation by eating a diet rich in fibre and fruits. Drinking plenty of fluids, frequent peeing and not holding the urine for long periods are to be taught to children.

PREMIER INTEGRATED TOURISM COMPLEX

Muscat Bay announces limited time offer for fully furnished apartments

MUSCAT: Muscat Bay, Oman's premier integrated tourism complex has announced a limited offer for prospective buyers.

It stands out as it offers fully furnished properties within the fully integrated and operational Tourism Complex. The limited offer is for the last remaining apartments featuring 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms, which are almost sold out. The units are thoughtfully designed to provide an exceptional living experience.

It is an extraordinary opportunity for buyers to acquire a home in the most exclusive luxury resort village in Oman.



Prospective buyers can pay just 2.5 per cent to book a home and are invited to explore the stunning showrooms, where they can witness its pristine location, attention to detail, and premium quality finishes that define these exquisite residences.

To further facilitate the home-buying journey, Muscat Bay provides a flexible 3-year payment plan, requiring only a 10 per cent down payment. This allows buyers to secure their future residence in this exclusive resort village with ease. Muscat Bay residents will wake up to spectacular views of the sea, serene water features, and lush green parkland, providing an awe-inspiring background to everyday living.

As freehold properties, owners can enjoy the confidence and peace of mind that comes with full ownership and control. Additionally, it offers lifetime Oman residency to residents, allowing them to fully embrace the rich cultural heritage and vibrant lifestyle that Oman has to offer. As part of the Muscat Bay community, residents gain exclusive access to the esteemed Jumeirah Residents Club, where they can indulge in world-class hotel services and experience luxury amenities that elevate their lifestyles.

Speaking about the offer, Jawad Sajid, Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Muscat Bay, opined that “We are delighted to present this exceptional chance for discerning homebuyers to own a luxurious residence at Oman's most exclusive resort village. Each apartment is equipped with modern kitchen appliances, offering breathtaking views of the sea, water, and park. Muscat Bay offers an unparalleled living experience, with breathtaking views, world-class amenities, and a flexible payment plan. This is an opportunity not to be missed to secure your dream home and become part of our thriving community.”

Muscat Bay is Oman's only fully integrated tourism complex. Nestled in a secluded valley and flanked by the majestic Al Hajar Mountains and the virgin beaches of the Gulf of Oman, Muscat Bay is a peaceful, stunningly picturesque natural haven that offers a new way of living where you can escape the stresses and strains of daily life with all the modern conveniences & Omani-flavoured luxury hospitality, and natural beauty on your doorstep. Oman's unique and growing resort village comprises a selection

of carefully designed, exclusive residential enclaves, a Jumeirah beach-front 5-Star Hotel, and a charming village green area with shops, restaurants, pools, BBQ and kid's play areas, encircled by beautifully landscaped gardens and parkland.

Muscat Bay's select residential range includes The Wajd Grand Villa Collection, 5-bedroom palatial dwellings located on the hilltop overlooking the bay below; Nameer's opulent Island Villa Collection, Zaha's cool Clubhouse Waterfront & Parkland Villas, the singular Sky Garden Penthouse, as well as a selection of luxury 2 and 1-bed lifestyle residences that provide fantastic investor returns. Only a few residences from the low-density, 260-luxury portfolio remain unsold given the harmonious setting and resort services on offer, only 20 minutes from downtown Muscat.

With reputable world-class shareholders, a leading 5 Star Hotel Operator with Jumeirah Group, and an extraordinary blend of immersive lifestyle experiences and investor benefits, Muscat Bay is Oman's emerging jewel within the region's luxury resort market.

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ROUND-UP

Celebrate Eid Al Adha at THE COVE ROTANA RESORT, RAS AL KHAIMAH



Celebrate the joyous occasion of Eid al Adha with a blissful getaway at The Cove Rotana Resort, Ras Al Khaimah.

Escape into a world of refined leisure, spectacular dining, and unapparelled scenic views.

For those seeking pure relaxation our infinity pools, spa, and 600-meter-long beach are perfect to sit back and unwind, all the while adventure lovers can enjoy action-packed water sports activities that will certainly get that adrenaline pumping.

Our specialty restaurants and bars bring together a symphony of flavors and cuisines that will satisfy all your cravings. From delectable buffets, and live stations to fresh barbeque grills; our chefs will cater to your every need.

Whether you plan to staycation with friends or intend on bringing along the whole family, our resort offers a range of cozy rooms to spacious villas, all tastefully adorned with modern amenities while offering breathtaking views of the resort's lush scenery.

Staying in the spirit of Eid, families can rest assured that their little ones are having a blast at our AquaFun slides and engaging activities at our Flippers Kids' Club.

The Cove Rotana Resort is the perfect place to spend treasured times with those you care about as you create lifelong memories this Eid Al Adha.

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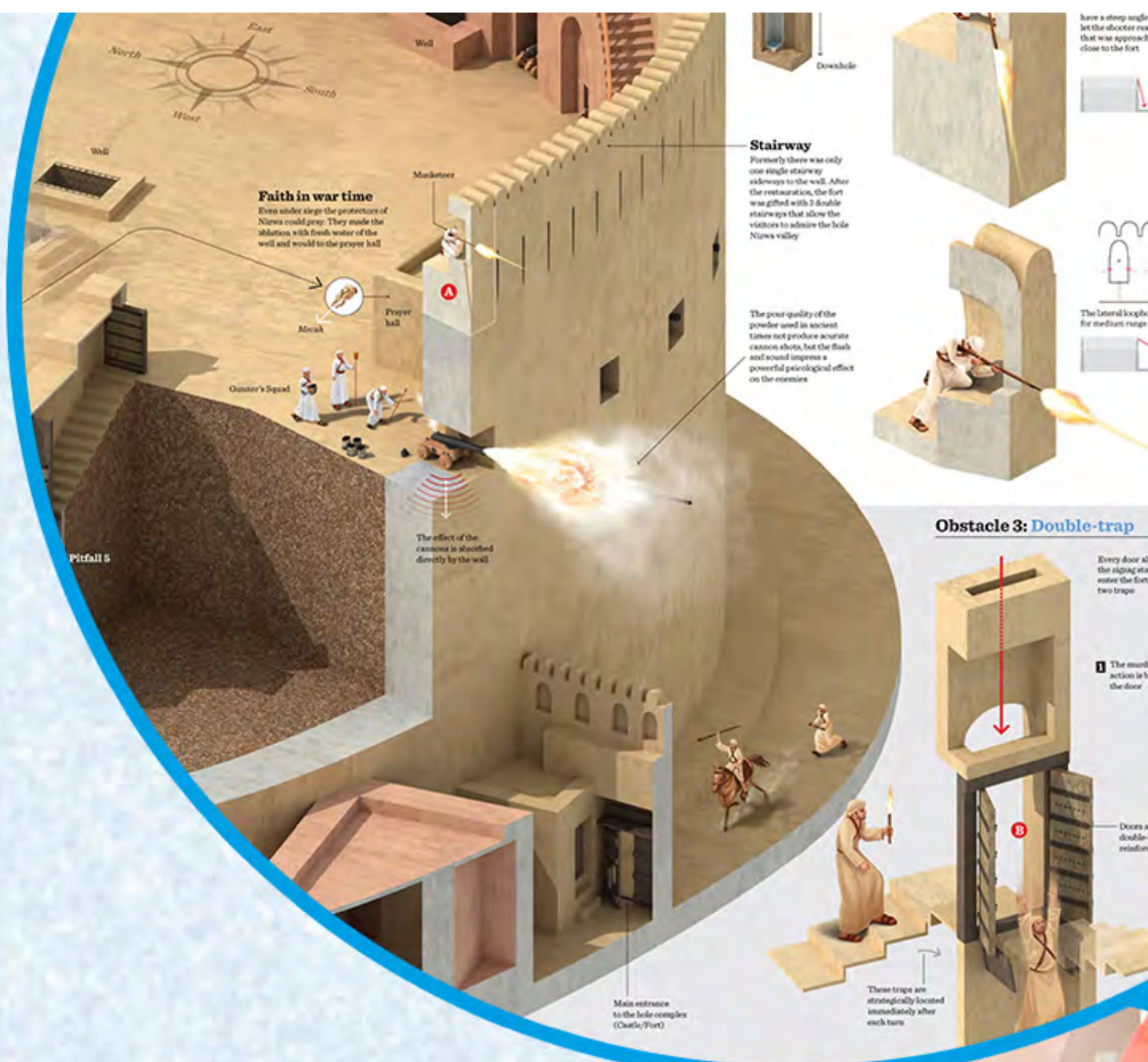
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