



HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN CONDOLES CUSTODIAN OF TWO HOLY MOSQUES

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on the death of Princess Latifa bint Abdulaziz Al Saud. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sympathies, praying to Allah the Almighty to rest the departed soul in peace in paradise. — **ONA**



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AT AL KHUWAIR

Catch a glimpse of installation of Oman's tallest flagpole



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman citizens and residents can catch a glimpse of the ongoing construction work at the Al Khuwair Square Project, which includes the installation of Oman's tallest flagpole at 126 metres.

The project also involves the development of various recreational and sports facilities in the area, according to Muscat Municipality.

Alongside the flagpole, the square will feature lush green areas, palm trees, walking and cycling paths, an outdoor venue for arts and crafts exhibition, a skate park and designated areas for sports activities.

The project will also provide public amenities and a parking lot with 107 spaces.

Officials believe that this will be the new centre of attraction in Muscat and will be a sanctuary for leisure and outdoor sports enthusiasts.

OMR221.9MN INVESTED IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR LAST YEAR: TRA

The TRA undertook several efforts to spread the broadband networks in all parts of the Sultanate of Oman in 2023

Times News Service

MUSCAT: OMR221.9 million was the total investments in the telecommunications sector in 2023, according to an annual report issued by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA).

Investments in mobile telecommunications services topped the list and they constituted 53.7 percent of the total, followed by fixed telecommunication services (wired/landline services), which comprised 37 percent, while other services comprised 9.3 percent of the 2023 telecommunications sector investments.

According to the report, the TRA released 12 "public consultation briefings" during 2023 with the aim of engaging beneficiaries and relevant parties and listening to their views about ideal measures to establish a flexible regulatory environment that keeps pace with modern developments.

The TRA undertook efforts to spread broadband networks in all parts of the Sultanate of Oman in 2023, said the report, which indicated that the number of 5th Generation stations (5G) stood at 5,238 and that the number of residential units covered by fibre-optic networks grew to 773,589.



As many as 377 permits/ licences were endorsed for different types of communications in 2023.

Those included 41 licences in the tracking and geolocation service, 6 licences in providing the "Internet of Things" services, 267 licences in implementing services in the field of telecommunications, 48 licences in establishing or operating private networks for personal use, 5 licences in utilising and accessing inactive infrastructure, 3 licences in the regulatory experimental environment for telecommunications services,

and 2 licenses in voice or video communications services via the Internet Protocol.

The TRA also authorised 15 new companies to provide postal services, taking the total number of licenced companies in this sector to 63 during 2023.

The step was in response to a steady rise in the volume of incoming messages in the local and international mail. This helped generate more than 1,624 additional employment opportunities under permanent contracts, with Omanis taking 1,223 of the jobs during 2023. With inputs from **ONA**

OMAN Oman condemns 'Philadelphi Corridor'

1 The Sultanate of Oman on Wednesday expressed its full support and solidarity with the Arab Republic of Egypt in its stance rejecting and condemning the statements of the Israeli occupation government about the 'Philadelphi Corridor' in the Gaza Strip. **>A2**

OMAN Commerce Minister holds talks on FTA

2 His Excellency Qais bin Mohammed Al-Yousef, the Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, met via video call with Douglas Alexander, the UK's Minister of State for Trade Policy and Economic Security, to boost cooperation between the two friendly nations. **>A5**

MARKET Geophysical airborne survey completed

3 Minerals Development Oman (MDO) has successfully completed its Geophysical Airborne Survey Project, marking a pivotal achievement in Oman's mineral exploration efforts. This project is a cornerstone of MDO's plan to identify and evaluate mineral resources. **>B1**

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Oman team gears up for clash against Iraq



Times News Service

BASRA: A confident-looking Oman take on hosts Iraq as the Red Warriors begin their campaign to book a ticket to the FIFA World Cup when they kick off their AFC Asian Qualifiers - Road to 26 Group B campaign at the Basra International Stadium in Basra on Thursday.

The match kicks off at 8pm, Oman time.

Oman are aiming for their first-ever FIFA World Cup appearance and head coach Jaroslav Silhavy will be relying on the same level of commitment that saw them

through to the third round.

Silhavy took over as head coach after Branko Ivanovic's departure, which followed an unexpected 1-0 defeat to Kyrgyz Republic. This loss came after Oman had started their second-round campaign with a convincing 3-0 win against Chinese Taipei.

Silhavy stepped in and his decision to recall several players paid off handsomely, leading Oman to secure their place in the third round with a match to spare.

Speaking at the pre-match press conference, Silhavy said: "The opening match is a tough one. My boys are ready and we have the con-



fidence to achieve a positive result." The national team had an intensive training at the Jaza'a Al Nakhla Stadium in Basra on Wednesday. Besides Oman and Iraq, the other teams in Group B are Kuwait, South Korea, Palestine and Jordan.

Silhavy added that the "goal of the team is to reach the World Cup" but there are "challenges to overcome". Mohammed Al Musalami, Oman captain and experienced defender said: "Playing against Iraq on their home ground is tough but we are ready for the go all out for a win."

Having navigated the second round with a perfect six wins, Je-

sus Casas-led Iraq are aiming to replicate the success of the 1986 squad that qualified for the nation's maiden FIFA World Cup in Mexico.

While the 1986 campaign ended in three defeats, Iraq are eager to return to the world stage and with the talent at their disposal, Casas is confident his side can claim one of the eight spots available for the FIFA World Cup 2026 to be hosted by Canada, Mexico and the US.

Since taking charge in 2022, Casas has transformed Iraq into a formidable force, highlighted by their 2-1 victory over Japan in the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 group stage.

GAZA DEATH TOLL

as of September 4, 2024



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94,398

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37°
MUSCAT



Heritage ministry holds talks with European firms to promote tourism

The meeting highlighted key developments in both local and global tourism sectors and discussed ways to support the Ministry's tourism goals

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MHT) began on Wednesday the first discussion sessions for tourism companies from European markets (France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Switzerland, Spain, and the Nordic countries), along with local tourism companies and representatives from relevant tourism authorities in the Sultanate of Oman.

These sessions are part of the "Marhaba Europe" event, which started on August 31 and will continue till September 5 and includes visits to several governorates in Oman.

The event aims to attract 70 tourism companies from European markets and to enhance relationships and communication between local tourism sector partners and their European counterparts.

Additionally, it seeks to promote tourism products, experiences, and hotel facilities to these European companies.

The first discussion session, titled 'Global Tourism Trends Compared to Omani Tourism Trends,' took place at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Cent-



er (OCEC), with the presence of Azzan bin Qasim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the MHT.

This session highlighted key developments in both local and glob-

al tourism sectors and discussed ways to leverage these insights to support the Ministry's goals for developing and promoting tourism in the Sultanate of Oman.

Airports; Shabib bin Mohammed Al Mamari, Managing Director of Visit Oman; and Haitham bin Mohammed Al Ghassani, Director General of Tourism Promotion at MHT. The session was moderated by Dr. Hamed Almuhrzi, Dean of Oman Tourism College.

The discussion sessions covered various topics, including identifying the main needs and interests of international markets and interactive discussions on developing tourism packages.

On Thursday, the second discussion session will be held, titled 'Strategic Planning and Future Collaboration in the Tourism Sector.' This session will include presentations on 'Developed Tour Packages in the Tourism Sector,' along with one-on-one meetings and joint discussions between representatives of Omani tourism institutions and their European counterparts.

These interactions are expected

to lead to the signing of cooperation agreements, introduce companies to key tourism elements in the Sultanate of Oman, and provide updates on the latest developments and promotional offers in the Omani tourism sector.

Al Ghassani, explained that the discussion sessions held alongside the Marhaba Europe event, taking place on Wednesday and Thursday, highlight key updates in both local and global tourism sectors. These sessions will focus on the diverse and rich natural, environmental, and cultural attractions of the Sultanate of Oman, aiming to offer an authentic Omani and Arab tourism experience.

Unique tourist destination

He noted that over the two days, the sessions will showcase the Sultanate of Oman's status as a unique tourist destination among European tourists, emphasising the facilities, services, and offers designed to attract European visitors and meet their needs and interests.

He emphasised that the event and its accompanying sessions and presentations will contribute to a broader understanding of Oman's tourist attractions, experiences, and heritage sites, enhancing year-round tourism across various governorates of Oman.

This, in turn, will support the promotion of the Sultanate of Oman as a key tourist destination.

He highlighted that Marhaba Europe represents a valuable addition to the Ministry's efforts to attract tourists from targeted markets and to exchange expertise with similar companies in the Sultanate of Oman.

It is worth noting that Marhaba Europe is part of the MHT's efforts to attract tourism from various markets and is included in the Ministry's promotional plan for the current year.

The event is expected to play a significant role in promoting the Sultanate of Oman's position as an important and luxurious global tourist destination.

RAKHUT AND DHALKUT

Cultivation of ginger starts in mountains of Dhofar



Times News Service

SALALAH: The Directorate General of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in Dhofar Governorate is following up on the implementation of the first phase of the ginger cultivation project in the Wilayats of Rakhut and Dhalkut with help from the Agricultural and Fisheries Development Fund.

The first phase of ginger cultivation by 30 farmers started in June 2024 on an area estimated at 3 acres, and the harvests are expected to reach between 20 and 30 tonnes.

The Director of the Agricultural Development Department at the General Directorate of Agricultural Wealth, Fisheries and Water Resources in Dhofar Governorate said that the first season of ginger cultivation in the governorate began in mid-June and will continue for 8 to 9 months until the scheduled harvest in February 2025.

He pointed out that the project, in its first phase in the Wilayats of Rakhut and Dhalkut, also provides technical support and guidance to farmers for land preparation, installation of modern irrigation system, and following up from the beginning of planting to the time of harvesting, indicating that the implementation of the project came after the success of turmeric cultivation project in



Dhofar Governorate, which is being implemented for the third year in a row.

He added that the project management team will work on promoting the product in the private sector to purchase the ginger and market it in the future, explaining that the directorate is distributing subsidised ginger roots to the farmers.

It is noteworthy that the project aims to motivate and encourage

farmers to cultivate ginger in the mountains of Dhofar Governorate, as it is a crop with added economic value and contains health and nutritional benefits, with increasing demand for it locally and globally.

The project also aims to enhance reliance on the ginger crop as a source of income for local productive families in these communities, thus ensuring their stability in their homelands and creating job opportunities for their children.

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AL DHAHIRAH GOVERNORATE

Comprehensive workshop organised

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Department of Administrative and Financial Affairs at the General Directorate of Agricultural Wealth and Water Resources in Al Dhahirah Governorate organised a workshop entitled 'How to operate and maintain high-pressure machines and actuators' used in spraying trees or

agricultural crops with different types of solutions with the aim of eliminating agricultural pests. Twenty-two participants from the directorate's engineers and technicians and its affiliated departments participated in the workshop. The workshop aimed to raise the efficiency of workers and technicians on how to operate and main-

tain high-pressure machines and actuators. The workshop included a practical application where participants were trained on the basics of using these machines and how to follow safety methods before, during and after their use. The workshop was presented by trainer Fayeze Al-Maslahi from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, who

explained that the idea of the spraying machine is to fill a tank with pesticide mixed with water in a certain proportion and use it to spray crops in the form of a spray using a sprayer. The three-day workshop also addressed the types of spraying machines and provided an explanation of how to inspect, operate and maintain high-pressure spraying machines.

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Commerce Minister holds talks with British counterpart on FTA

Discussions were held on the growth indicators of bilateral trade and ways to enhance trade exchanges and investments

Times News Service

MUSCAT: His Excellency Qais bin Mohammed Al-Yousef, the Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, met via video call with His Excellency Douglas Alexander, the UK's Minister of State for Trade Policy and Economic Security, to enhance co-operation between the two friendly nations in the trade and investment sectors.

During the meeting, HE Qais bin Mohammed Al-Yousef congratulated Douglas Alexander on his appointment as Minister of State for Trade Policy and Economic Security in the United Kingdom. He expressed his wishes for success in his new role and further development and prosperity in the

Omani-British friendship and co-operation. The meeting included discussions on the growth indicators of bilateral trade and ways to enhance and increase trade exchanges and investments. They also emphasised the importance of continuing negotia-

tions on the Free Trade Agreement between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and the United Kingdom. Several other topics of mutual interest were also discussed. The Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion emphasised that the United King-

dom is a key strategic partner for the Sultanate of Oman. His Excellency Qais bin Mohammed Al-Yousef noted that the economic relations between the two friendly nations are witnessing significant growth, in line with their shared ambitions and the enhancement of bilateral coopera-

tion in various fields. Both sides discussed ways to strengthen joint investment between the two countries and encourage direct investment in the available sectors and activities according to the laws and regulations in both countries, ensuring mutual benefit.

SEMINAR

Embassy of Japan marks start of 'Ryoma Manga Seminar' in Sur

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In celebration of the commencement of 'Ryoma Manga Seminar' in Sur, 'the Arab Tourism Capital for 2024', the Embassy of Japan in the Sultanate of Oman, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth, hosted a reception at the Sur Grand Hotel on 1st of September. The event was graced by the presence of Yousef bin Salem bin Nasser Al-Mukhaini, Member of the Shura Council representing the Wilayat of Sur. During his speech, Jota Yamamoto, Ambassador of Japan to the Sultanate of Oman, reaffirmed the significant role that

manga plays in strengthening the friendship between Japan and Oman. He expressed hope that the seminar participants would excel as ambassadors of Japanese manga. Starting on the same day, the manga seminar organised by the

Ministry began at the Youth Centre in the Wilayat of Sur. Japanese manga artists Yoshihiro Iwagami and Yuka Yamashita, invited from Kochi Prefecture, Japan, are providing lectures to participants on the art of manga creation.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Warning to 57,398 private firms for not following ministry's guidelines

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The decision on wage protection system (WPS) issued by the Ministry of Labour has completed one year as it was issued on 9 July 2023. The ministry has also issued a circular annexed to the ministerial decision requiring the private sector establishments to adjust their conditions, accordingly. The circular stated a six months' period for medium and major establishments to achieve 50% by 9 November 2023 and 100% commitment by 9 January 2024. As for small and minor establishments, the period for correcting their conditions ended on 9 January 2024 to achieve 50% and on 9 March 2024 to achieve 100 % commitment.

In case of violation to the decision, the Ministry may apply administrative penalty starting with suspension of issuance of initial labour permits and administrative fine of OMR50. The Ministry of Labour has followed with registration of the establishments in the WPS and served warnings through SMS for the establishments not registered, which amounted to 18,6817 including three major establishments, 475 medium establishments, 14,164 small establishments and 172,174 minor establishments. The total number of SMS amounted to 186,817 from 10 January to 16 May, 2024. There are 57,735 establishments registered with WPS but

not committed to transfer of salary through the system, including 66 major establishments, 536 medium establishments, 10,659 small establishments and 46,137 minor establishments. The ministry has served warnings to these establishments and the number of SMS to them amounted to 57,398 from 10 Janu-

ary to 20 August 2024. The ministry has organised awareness workshops for its employees and Sanad Offices / centres in the various governorates in cooperation with Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, General Federation of Small Workers, Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED) and other associations concerned. WPS is a joint electronic salary transfer system between the Ministry of Labour and the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) which strictly observes and monitors transfer of wages of employees having local accounts with the banks and financial establishments licensed by the CBO. The system aimed to protect the national and expatriate manpower and to ensure they receive their salaries within the prescribed period.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

GCC social affairs ministers meet

DOHA: Represented by the Ministry of Social Development, the Sultanate of Oman participated today in the 10th meeting of the Committee of GCC Ministers of Social Affairs and Social Development. Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, headed Oman's delegation at the meeting, which was held in Doha. The meeting discussed the 5-year Social Development Strategy for GCC countries (2021-2025), the GCC states Joint Char-

itable and Humanitarian Work Plan (2025-2030) and the Joint Action Strategy for Women's Affairs in GCC countries (2024-2030). **Gulf Family Day Forum** On the sidelines of the meeting, Oman's Ministry of Social Development organised the Gulf Family Day Forum 2024, titled "The Family is a Nation's Wealth". At the forum, the Ministry showcased the most prominent family development services and

programmes it provided with the aim of enabling the neediest groups to participate in building the nation. It also outlined social services it rendered to various segments of society during the stages of their lives and highlighted its role in establishing effective partnerships between the government and civil society institutions. Later, a ceremony was held to felicitate parties that undertook major projects in the field of social and civil work in GCC states. — ONA

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Israeli forces using ‘lethal war-like’ tactics in occupied West Bank: UN

The UN team said people are being killed, injured, displaced or deprived of access to basic services



GAZA: The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has warned that Israeli occupation forces (IOF) are using “lethal war-like tactics”, including airstrikes, in the occupied West Bank, with people being killed, injured, displaced or deprived of access to basic services.

The office explained in a statement that Israeli military operations have now resumed in Tulkarm governorate, while continuing in Jenin governorate, adding that the United Nations has recorded more than 20 deaths over the past week, including children.

The statement added that OCHA has mobilised organisations from the UN and beyond to assess the damage and humanitarian needs on the ground, adding that during a visit to Tulkarm last Saturday, it was confirmed that 120 people, including more than 40 children, had been displaced and their homes destroyed.

At the time of the assessment, 13,000 people in Nur Shams refugee camp experienced water cut-offs, attributed to damages caused to the water network, and sewage overflow was observed, OCHA said. The UN teams noticed that the residents were traumatised and in need of psychosocial support, the office added, stressing that it triggered humanitarian response to the identified needs.

Multiple organisations mobilised by OCHA were set to carry out an assessment in Jenin but were denied access by the Israeli occupation authorities, it added. OCHA warns that access impediments are impacting the ability to provide meaningful humanitarian response. The movement of ambulances and medical teams has been impeded and delayed since the onset of the now-week-long operation. Since the beginning of the Israeli aggression last Wednesday, 34 Palestinians have been martyred in the occupied West Bank. This brings the total number of martyrs in the occupied West Bank since the start of the aggression on the Gaza Strip on 7 October 2023 to 685.

Jenin ravaged by violence and destruction: UNRWA The Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Philippe Lazzarini condemned the ongoing Israeli aggression on the West Bank for about 7 days, stressing that the violence and destruction that accompanied it has ravaged Jenin Governorate. “Meanwhile in the West Bank, for more than six days now, Jenin has been ravaged by violence and destruction. This is causing loss of life and injuries including among civilians and severe damage to infrastructure”, Lazzarini said in a post on X platform. Lazzarini added that “residents have limited access to food, water and medicine”, noting that the UNRWA is working with humanitarian and local partners to deliver urgently needed aid. Commissioner-General of the UNRWA called for an immediate protection of civilians across the West Bank. The suffering of Palestinians in the city of Jenin and its camp is increasing due to the interruption of water to homes as a result of the destruction of the main water supply lines in the governorate. — **Wafa**

EASTERN STATE OF THURINGIA

German police raid people-smuggling ring

JENA: German police launched widespread raids early on Wednesday targeting a suspected people-smuggling ring that’s thought to have helped at least 140 people come to Germany via the Balkans illegally in exchange for payment. A spokesman for the federal police said that the focal points of the operation were the eastern state of Thuringia and the city of Jena. Police said that 15 of the 19 properties searched were in Thuringia, and 10 of them in Jena itself. Individuals brought into the country were initially being housed in an apartment there, police said.

340 officers mobilised A total of roughly 340 officers mobilised across five states in all, including special GSG9 units in Jena, with searches also taking place further west in Baden-Württemberg, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein and North Rhine-Westphalia. “The goal of the measures was the discovery and seizure of evidence that could prove the crimes,” police said of Wednesday’s raids. “Documents, electronic storage devices, cash and other valuables were the focus.”

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Indian PM Modi arrives in Singapore

SINGAPORE: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who arrived in Singapore on an official visit on Wednesday greeted his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong with his trademark embrace. A photograph captured the bonhomie between the two leaders who were captured with their arms thrown around each other’s shoulders. Earlier in the day, taking to his social media platform X, PM Modi said, “Landed in Singapore. Looking forward to the various meetings aimed at boosting the India-Singapore friendship. India’s reforms and the talent of our Yuva Shakti makes our nation an ideal investment destination. We also look forward to closer cultural ties.”



Prime Minister Modi, who concluded a historic visit to Brunei was received by the Singaporean Minister for Home Affairs and Law K Shanmugham at the Changi airport and received a warm welcome from the Indian community. PM Modi was seen giving autographs to members of the community. He also tried his hand at playing the dhol. He later posted on his X platform, “Thank you Singapore! The welcome was truly vibrant.” Later, the Prime Minister of Singapore, in a special gesture, will be hosting Prime Minister for a private dinner according to Ministry of External affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal.

NEW CAPITAL

Indonesia’s green dream or ecological nightmare?

JAKARTA: Indonesia last month celebrated its 79th Independence Day in Nusantara, which is set to become the country’s new capital city by 2045. Located in the eastern part of Borneo, the unfinished Nusantara is being promoted as a sustainable, high-tech alternative to the current overcrowded and polluted capital, Jakarta, which is situated on Java Island and is gradually sinking. Indonesian President Joko Widodo, also known as Jokowi, led the August 17 ceremony with President-elect Prabowo Subianto, who is due to assume office next month. Nusantara is expected to be a green city built with a circular economic concept aimed at eliminating waste and fostering the continual use of resources. But amid the grand ceremony, concerns were raised by the nearby indigenous Balik community, who grapple with the cultural and environmental repercussions stemming from the \$32 billion (€31.7 billion) capital construction project. Environmentalists have warned of potential ecological disaster caused by building a capital city in one of the world’s biggest stretches of rainforest which houses some rare and endangered species, including orangutans, proboscis monkeys and clouded leopards. There have been additional concerns from Indigenous tribes, such as the Balik people, who are native to the forested area of Borneo’s East Kalimantan where the new capital is being constructed. They are among the communities most affected by Indonesia’s plan to relocate its capital to Nusantara.



A green city or a threat to biodiversity? The Balik tribe’s ancestral land consists of tropical forests, mangrove forests and small waterbodies. Many people still gather food such as fruits and fish from their surroundings, as well as herbal products that they believe could cure ailments. Earlier this year, researchers found out that the habitat of 1,449 proboscis monkeys — about 37% of the species population — overlapped with the current spatial plan of Nusantara. They raised concerns that the construction of the new capital will impact the proboscis monkeys’ habitat in nearby Balikpapan Bay. Greenpeace Indonesia wrote that despite the promise of being a green city, the Nusantara project is itself a significant threat to biodiversity. Within the Nusantara project boundary, 20,000 hectares of forest were lost over the past five years, mostly to logging and industrial plantations, according to the NGO. “Today, there is only 31,364 hectares of native forest remaining within the greater Nusantara boundary, including a mangrove forest area of 12,819 hectares,” Greenpeace wrote in an email to DW. Jakia has deep concerns for her health and the air quality in her village. She has called on the government to pay more attention to Indigenous people’s voices if they are serious about protecting the environment and the communities living there. — **DW**

been living for generations. Several traditional houses that were made of ironwood still stand firmly amid the newly built brick houses. They live around 10 kilometres (about 6 miles) from Nusantara, but their land is one of the areas earmarked for further development of the new capital. Sibukdin, the leader of the Balik community, accompanied DW to visit the Sepaku River flowing near to their village before the construction began. He said that his community used to source water from the river for daily use, including drinking. “Yet, due to significant pollution, we can no longer do so. The water is contaminated by rotten wood,

and ecosystems have suffered,” he told DW. The river water appeared discoloured and seemed to be covered by a fine layer of sediment. A pile of waste has blocked the flow of the river. The Indonesian government envisions future Nusantara residents will be able to drink water directly from the faucets in their

homes and offices. Water will be sourced from the Sepaku Dam built on the river. The construction of the capital adds to the challenges faced by the Indigenous communities in the area, who have already been in conflicts with palm oil plantations. Sibukdin is worried about potential eviction from their ancestral land. Like many Indigenous populations, many residents lack formal ownership certificates for the houses and land they have inhabited for multiple generations. Jakia, 48, a female resident who has been living there for as long as she can remember, told DW that many people in her community must now buy water for daily needs. The air quality also troubles her. Jakia often sweeps her yard to clean it from dust. While the water supply is limited, she waters the yard occasionally to reduce the intensity of the dust. She coughed often during an interview with DW.

All-American men’s semis for the first time at US Open since 2005

The winner will become the first American man to reach a Grand Slam singles final since Andy Roddick at Wimbledon in 2009

NEW YORK : For the first time since the 2005 US Open, an all-American men’s semi-final will feature at a Grand Slam tournament.

On Friday, Taylor Fritz and Frances Tiafoe will face off in the US Open semi-finals, ensuring that one of them will advance to their first major final.

The winner will become the first American man to reach a Grand Slam singles final since Andy Roddick at Wimbledon in 2009.

Fritz earned his spot in the semi-finals with a hard-fought victory over fourth seed Alexander Zverev, winning 7-6(2), 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(3) in the first quarter-final.

Tiafoe followed by setting up a clash with his compatriot after Grigor Dimitrov retired with the score at 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-3, 4-1 in their quarter-final match.

The last all-American men’s semi-final at a major occurred 19 years ago at the US Open, where Andre Agassi defeated Robby Ginepri in a five-set thriller.

Since then, there have been only two other all-American men’s semi-finals, Pete Sampras’s victory over Agassi at the 2002 US Open final and Agassi’s win against Sampras at the 2000 Australian Open



semi-finals.

The winner between Fritz and Tiafoe will advance to Sunday’s final, aiming to become the first American man to claim a Grand Slam singles title since Andy Roddick’s 2003 US Open triumph.

Fritz currently holds a 6-1 lead in their head-to-head series, with their most recent encounter last year in Acapulco, where Fritz won 6-3, 6-4.

On the other hand, star Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna and his Indonesian partner Aldila Sutjiadi conceded defeat against the American duo of Taylor Townsend and Donald Young in the semi-final of the ongoing US Open 2024 tennis mixed doubles event.

The Indo-Indonesian pair were defeated 6-3, 6-4 by the American duo at the Louis Armstrong Stadium on Tuesday. The match lasted

for 55 minutes.

Bopanna and Sutjiadi lost the match in straight two sets as they failed to make a comeback in the game even after a strong start.

The Americans started strong against Bopanna-Sutjiadi, winning the first three games of the first set. The Indo-Indonesian pair found their rhythm and tied the set at 3-3. However, Bopanna’s opponent earned another break to win the set.

The second set began evenly before the Indo-Indonesian pair stumbled in the fifth game, giving away a crucial break point. The American pair then held onto all their service games to win the set 6-4 and book a berth in the final.

Though Bopanna-Sutjiadi hit four aces and made fewer unforced errors, Townsend-Young’s 26 winners proved decisive in the end.

Meanwhile, Townsend-Young

will lock horns against Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori of Italy in the Championship match.

After the exit of Bopanna from the US Open 2024, India’s representation at the final Grand Slam of the year came to an end. This year, the 44-year-old Indian tennis player matched his best mixed doubles result at the US Open, but failed to take it one step higher.

Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna and his partner Aldila Sutjiadi defeated

Star Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna and his Indonesian partner Aldila Sutjiadi conceded defeat against the American duo of Taylor Townsend and Donald Young in the semi-final of the ongoing US Open 2024 tennis mixed doubles event.

The Indo-Indonesian pair were defeated 6-3, 6-4 by the American

SERIES OF SETBACKS

Pakistan drop to lowest ICC Test ranking since 1965



ISLAMABAD [PAKISTAN]: Pakistan hit rock bottom after dropping to eighth position in the latest ICC Test Rankings, their lowest since 1965.

The series of setbacks continued for Pakistan following their historic whitewash against Bangladesh in their two-match home Test series.

It was the first instance when Pakistan tasted the sour flavour of defeat against Bangladesh in red-ball cricket.

Their latest slump marked their lowest ranking in the Test format, barring the period where they did not have a place in the rankings due to an insufficient number of matches.

In the opening Test match of the series, Pakistan had their backs against the wall, with Bangladesh playing a much more aggressive brand of cricket.

Pakistan struggled to understand the nature of the surface that was on offer and succumbed to a 10-wicket defeat. -ANI

STAR ENGLAND BATTER

Joe Root takes lead as ICC updates Test rankings

NEW DELHI : Star England batter Joe Root became the top batter as the International Cricket Council (ICC) updated player’s rankings on Wednesday.

“Joe Root’s dream run with the bat has helped the England batter to an even bigger lead in the ICC Test Batter Rankings,” ICC stated in a statement.

Consecutive tons for Root led him to extend his lead atop the ICC Men’s Test Batting Rankings. Root (922 rating points) now leads the chart by 63 points over New Zealand’s Kane Williamson.

Even after his stupendous performance against Sri Lanka in the second Test, Root was overshadowed by Gus Atkinson, whose Player of the Match efforts with bat and ball led to dramatic jumps across all Ranking disciplines.

After becoming just the third player in Men’s Test history to score a century and claim a five-wicket haul at the hallowed venue, Atkinson moved up 48 spots, into the top 20 for All-Rounders, and into the top 30 for bowlers.

Even after conceding defeat two defeats in the three-match series against England, there were positive moves for a number of Sri Lanka players in the latest update in the rankings. Half-centuries for Kamindu Mendis moved him up 11 spots and into 25th (635), while an eight-wicket performance from Asitha Fer-



nando propelled the seamer into the top ten for the first time (8th, 734).

Over in Pakistan, Bangladesh’s barnstorming clean sweep series win saw several Tigers gains.

Rescuing Bangladesh’s first innings, at one stage in peril at 26/6, Litton Das’s 138 helped the team to a first innings 262, and him to a 12-place push to 15th on the batting rankings. His partner in the seventh-wicket partnership of 165, Mehedy Hasan Miraz, moved up to 75th place with the bat, and his figures of 5-61 in Pakistan’s first innings pushed him up to 7th in the all-rounders list. On the bowling side, Hasan Mahmud and Nahid Rana moved to career-best rankings.

West Indies’ last T20I with South Africa and the Dutch T20I tri-series with the USA and Canada, meanwhile, led to minor shuffles in the rankings for the short-term format.

The Caribbean batter Nicolas Pooran’s score of 35 from 13 balls pushed him up to eighth in the Batting Rankings (668), while teammate Shai Hope continued his run to move 32 spots up to 40th. Protea Aiden Markram joined Pooran into the top 10 with a one-spot move (641).

American all-rounder Harmeet Singh jumped 48 spots in the most noteworthy move on a bowling front, and also climbed 19 spots to 40th in the All-Rounder Rankings. -ANI

ATTACKING MIDFIELDER

Barca midfielder Lopez sustains muscle injury

MADRID: FC Barcelona has lost Spain international midfielder Fermin Lopez with a muscle injury for at least a month.

The attacking midfielder, who was in the Spain squad for both the UEFA Euro and the Olympic Games, has been forced to withdraw from the Spain under-21 squad for the forthcoming games against Scotland and Hungary.

Lopez suffered an injury to his left thigh while training on Tuesday and has returned to his club for treatment.

He joins the club’s long list of injuries, which includes Ronald Araujo, Ansu Fati, Frenkie de Jong, Andreas Christensen, Gavi and Marc Bernal, who will miss the season with a torn cruciate knee ligament that he suffered while playing Rayo Vallecano last week.

On Tuesday, Barcelona president Joan Laporta gave a press conference, discussing the club’s difficult summer in which it has only been able to sign Dani Olmo. Laporta insisted the club would soon be in a position to sign normally and said that the decision to allow Ilkay Gundogan to return to Manchester City on a free transfer was purely down to “sporting reasons.”

Valencia striker Rafa Mir has been detained by the Spanish



Civil Guard and is currently in custody facing charges of sexual assault.

The Spanish media informed that Mir is accused of assaulting a 25-year-old woman at his home.

He was detained on Monday and spent the night in the cells before appearing before a judge, with reports saying the Civil Guard made the arrest after declarations on Sunday from the woman and another 21-year-old who witnessed the events.

Mir has just joined Valencia from Sevilla and his club issued a statement on Tuesday, explaining the club was “aware of the arrest, but due to the lack of details over this, all it can do at the moment is stating that it will collaborate with everything that justice could require.” -Xinhua

INDIAN OPENER

Definitely have not reached my expectations: Shubman Gill on his Test career

KARNATAKA (BENGALURU) [INDIA]: Indian opener Shubman Gill said on Wednesday that he is not satisfied with his performance in Test cricket.

Gill was speaking ahead of the Duleep Trophy opener against India B in Bengaluru, which will start from Thursday. Gill will be leading the India A team.

Speaking ahead of the competition, as quoted by ESPNcricinfo, Gill said that he has not performed in Tests as per his own expectations, but looks forward to per-

forming in the upcoming 10-match long Test season, starting with Bangladesh from September 19, with two Tests and concluding with the highly-anticipated Border Gavaskar Trophy against Australia from November 22 onwards. In between, India will also play three Tests against New Zealand at home, following the Bangladesh home Tests.

“Yes, definitely, I have not reached my expectations yet. But we have ten Test matches ahead of us back-to-back. So hopefully after

these ten Test matches, I will be able to meet my expectations,” said Gill as quoted by ESPNcricinfo.

Gill, one of India’s premier white-ball cricketers, shot to stardom with an audacious knock of 91 against Australia at the Gabba back in 2021, which helped India hand over a rare loss to Aussies at their fortress after over 32 years and secure the series.

Though his white-ball numbers started largely consistent since his days in the 2018 U19 World Cup winning team, Gill battled incon-

sistent form in the longer format of the game following this breakthrough series against Australia, in which he had scored 259 runs in six innings at an average of 51.80 with two fifties.

After poor performances during the tour to England, ICC World Test Championship final and the tour to South Africa between 2022 and early 2024, Gill’s place in the Test side was questioned.

However, with a fine series against England at home, he was able to shut all the outside noise.

In six Tests and 11 innings this year, Gill has scored 498 runs at an average of 49.80, with two centuries and two fifties. His best score is 110.

In 25 Tests, Gill has scored 1,492 runs at an average of 35.52, with four centuries and six fifties in 46 innings. His best score is 128. The Punjab batter is a strong first-class cricket batter, with 4,034 runs in 52 matches at an average of 49.80, with 12 centuries and 18 fifties coming in 90 innings. His best score is 268. -ANI



OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by November 2024 reaching \$73.39, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$3.24 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$76.63. -ONA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,781.07 points, up by 0.07% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.42% at 441.88 points. Al Madina Investments, up 8.33%, was the top gainer while Oman Fisheries, down 5.00%, was the top loser.

MDO's geophysical survey paves way for Oman's mining growth

The airborne geophysical survey is part of the comprehensive exploration programme implemented by Minerals Development Oman, alongside the geochemical surveys and exploratory drilling



MUSCAT: Minerals Development Oman (MDO) has successfully completed its Geophysical Airborne Survey Project, marking a pivotal achievement in the Sultanate of Oman's mineral exploration efforts. This project is a cornerstone of MDO's strategic plan to identify and evaluate mineral resources across its concession areas

throughout Oman. Over the course of 73 weeks, the survey meticulously logging a total of 2,550 flight hours to complete the survey, a total area of 16,000 square kilometres across seven mineral concessions across six governorates: Al Buraimi, North and South Al Batinah, South Al Sharqiyah, Al Dhahirah, and Al Dakhiliyah.

Eng. Nasser Saif Al Maqbali, CEO of MDO, remarked: "The successful completion of the airborne geophysical survey project underscores MDO's unwavering commitment to advancing the mining sector in Oman. By building a robust geological foundation through modern, practical approaches and leveraging cutting-edge airborne

surveying technology, we are laying the groundwork for significant progress. Furthermore, our dedication to developing Omani talent in exploration and geophysics aims to localise essential knowledge. "We are confident that the data collected will be pivotal in unlocking new opportunities and driving sustainable growth in the compa-

ny's mineral resources." The airborne geophysical survey is part of the comprehensive exploration programme implemented by MDO, alongside the geochemical surveys and exploratory drilling. The goal is to build a robust database of mineral resources to support the mining projects developed by the company.

Minerals Development Oman was established with a clear strategic vision to invest in Oman's mining sector and to enhance its contribution to economic and social growth. This includes creating job opportunities, building local competencies, supporting small businesses, and developing in-country value. -ONA

KHAZAEN ECONOMIC CITY



Pact worth OMR20mn signed to establish pharmaceutical complex

MUSCAT: Khazaen Economic City signed an investment agreement to establish an integrated pharmaceutical industrial complex worth OMR20 million. The project will be established on an area

of 20,000 square metres. The project aims to manufacture general medicine in order to meet local demand and improve Oman's position as a lucrative investment destination in the pharmaceuticals field. -ONA

FIRST HALF OF 2024

Rusayl Industrial City localises 8 new projects worth OMR8 million



MUSCAT: Al Rusayl Industrial City, affiliated to the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), succeeded in localising 8 projects during the first half of 2024, with an investment volume of OMR8 million. This takes the total number of

investment contracts signed during the first half of 2024 to 488. The total volume of investments in Al Rusayl Industrial City exceeded OMR766 million, while the number of workers stood at 19,854, with an Omanisation rate of 33%. Eng. Mohsin Zahran Al Hinai,

CEO of Al Rusayl Industrial City, said that the industrial city, established in 1983, constitutes one of the oldest components of Madayn. Since its establishment, Al Rusayl Industrial City has seen significant development, with a steady rise in the number of pro-

jects and areas allocated to it. Al Hinai told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the area of the industrial city grew from 3.5 million sqm to 10.5 million sqm, with approximately 6.8 million sqm developed and approximately 95 percent of the zone engaged. -ONA

REPORT

Brussels urged to target European Union farm subsidies to help poorer farmers

BRUSSELS: The European Commission is urged to shake up the European Union's agricultural subsidies to better support poorer farmers, aiming to address the concerns that sparked the recent widespread protests by furious farmers, according to a report released yesterday. "Bold and swift action at all levels is needed" to address multiple agricultural and environmental crises, said the report, written by an expert committee and, presented to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Brussels. The report advises targeting subsidies from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) fund towards "farmers who need it most" based on income and away from payouts based on the size of land held. The wide-ranging consultations involving agricultural bodies and environmental non-governmental



organizations (NGOs) were launched by von der Leyen in the wake of angry farmers' protests across the EU, earlier this year. Angry at increased bureaucracy and falling incomes, farmers demonstrated for months ahead of European Parliament elections and even mounted a tractor blockade

of EU institutions in Brussels. The report is meant to inform agricultural policy in the new commission for the next five years. Other recommendations include a specific loan package for the agricultural sector from the European Investment Bank. Also advised is a rethink of the bloc's trade nego-

tiation strategy to account for the "strategic relevance of agriculture and food products" and a review of impact assessments of trade deals. The commission should also establish a platform for further consultations among stakeholders from agricultural and environmental groups, the report said. -ONA

OIL PRICES

Oil falls amid concerns over slow global demand growth

SINGAPORE: Oil prices fell yesterday, extending the previous day's more than 4% plunge, amid concerns over lower global demand growth. Brent crude futures for November fell 28 cents, or 0.4%, to \$73.47 after dropping 4.9% in the previous session. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures for October were down 31 cents, or 0.4%, to \$70.03 after dropping 4.4% on Tuesday. Both contracts fell to their lowest since December 2023, amid signs of a deal to slow global consumption growth.



Gold steady as US payrolls data grabs limelight Gold prices held steady today as investors braced for a monthly US payrolls report that could influence how swiftly and deeply the Federal Reserve cuts interest rates this year (2024).

Spot gold held its ground at \$2,493.34 per ounce, after hitting its lowest level in more than a week on Tuesday. US gold futures were nearly unchanged at \$2,524.80. So far this year, gold has gained 21%, hitting an all-time high of \$2,531.60 on 20 August 2024 driven by US rate cut bets and the Middle East concerns. Spot silver fell 0.4% to \$27.94 per ounce, platinum gained 0.2% to \$904.65, and palladium was flat at \$938.57. -ONA

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Al Madina Investments, up 8.33%, was the top gainer while Oman Fisheries, down 5.00%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,781.07 points, up by 0.07% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.42% at 441.88 points. Al Madina Investments, up 8.33%, was the top gainer while Oman Fisheries, down 5.00%, was the top loser. Shares of OQGN were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 821 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 2.73 million, with more than 14.24 million shares changing hands. Out of 53 traded securities, 16 advanced, 15 declined, and 22 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 70K, followed by foreign investors for RO 67K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,744.12 points, down 0.13%. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Oman Qatar Insurance, United Finance, OMINVEST,

Oman United Insurance were up by 8.33%, 2.56%, 1.75%, 0.58%, 0.40% respectively. Prices of National Finance, Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Madina Takaful, Bank Nizwa, Oman Arab Bank were down by 3.57%, 1.30%, 1.25%, 0.94%, 0.68% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,911.29 points, up 0.06%. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Muscat Thread Mill, Galfar Engineering, Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 1.89%, 0.94%, 0.76%, 0.55% respectively. Prices of Oman Fisheries, Oman Chromite, Jazeera Steel Products were down by 5.00%, 4.05%, 0.71% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.88% before closing at 1,866.72 points. Prices of Renaissance Services, Al Maha Marketing, Dhofar Generating, Barka Water & Power Company, Al Jazeera Services were up by 5.00%, 3.88%, 2.99%, 2.66%, 1.91% respectively. Prices of Majan College, Phoenix Power, Al Batinah Power, Oman Telecom, Ooredoo were down by 1.80%, 1.75%, 1.30%, 0.89%, 0.34% respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,798.29	4,774.19	4,777.90	4,777.90	3.18	0.07
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,809.39	7,741.95	7,744.12	7,754.05	-9.93	-0.13
Industry Index	5,931.76	5,882.23	5,911.29	5,908.00	3.28	0.06
Services Index	1,866.72	1,850.17	1,866.72	1,850.50	16.22	0.88
MSX Shariah Index	443.76	438.50	441.88	443.76	-1.88	-0.42
MSX TR INDEX	6,668.86	6,635.37	6,644.94	6,640.52	4.42	0.07
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,872.27	8,795.66	8,798.12	8,809.40	-11.29	-0.13
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,843.84	6,786.69	6,820.22	6,816.43	3.79	0.06
SERVICES TR IDX	2,172.22	2,152.96	2,172.22	2,153.35	18.88	0.88
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
14,241,944	2,731,370	821	24,619,979,618	16	15	22	53

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

SECURITY NAME

VOLUME

TURNOVER

TRADES

OPEN PRICE

HIGH

LOW

CLOSE PR

PREV. CLOSE

DIFF BD

DIFF %

LAST PR

LAST BD

LAST OFFER

PREV. VALUE

MARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SERVICES	65,520	27,135	22	0.410	0.420	0.407	0.420	0.400	0.020	5.000	0.420	0.415	0.419	0.100	99,292,200
OM0000002374 UNITED FINANCE	30,600	1,775	3	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.057	0.001	1.754	0.058	0.056	0.058	0.100	20,655,383
OM0000004735 SEMBOCORP SALALAH	109,500	11,931	18	0.108	0.112	0.108	0.109	0.108	0.001	0.926	0.109	0.104	0.110	0.100	104,048,343
OM0000009072 OQ GAS NETWORKS	4,377,405	648,857	195	0.148	0.149	0.148	0.149	0.148	0.001	0.676	0.148	0.148	0.149	0.100	645,262,964
OM0000001532 OMINVEST	15,800	5,531	4	0.348	0.350	0.348	0.350	0.348	0.002	0.575	0.350	0.341	0.349	0.100	233,827,899
OM0000002168 AL ANWAR CERAMIC	5,582	1,027	2	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.183	0.001	0.546	0.184	0.180	0.188	0.100	40,480,000
OM0000001087 OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	45,774	11,444	2	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.249	0.001	0.402	0.250	0.250	0.257	0.100	25,000,000
OM0000001485 NATIONAL BANK OMAN	1,690,048	456,315	30	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.000	0.000	0.270	0.270	0.290	0.100	439,005,516
OM0000002440 AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	226,645	16,772	8	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.073	0.078	0.100	6,660,000
OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	1,319,119	345,879	23	0.262	0.263	0.262	0.262	0.262	0.000	0.000	0.262	0.262	0.263	0.100	1,966,676,030
OM0000003125 GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	254,185	18,573	20	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.077	0.079	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000003388 SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	741,749	106,657	77	0.144	0.144	0.143	0.144	0.144	0.000	0.000	0.144	0.140	0.144	0.100	803,123,463
OM0000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	1,491	115	1	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.073	0.077	0.100	55,009,288
OM0000008934 ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,191,761	357,258	51	0.300	0.300	0.299	0.300	0.300	0.001	0.000	0.300	0.297	0.320	0.100	231,060,000
OM0000005968 OOREDOO	5,000	1,740	2	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.291	-0.001	-0.344	0.280	0.280	0.291	0.100	188,773,827
OM0000002176 JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	10,000	2,780	1	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.280	-0.002	-0.714	0.278	0.278	0.279	0.100	34,721,633
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	180,646	180,793	28	1.011	1.011	1.000	1.000	1.009	-0.009	-0.892	1.000	1.000	1.001	0.100	750,000,000
OM0000004788 MADINA TAKAFUL	111,761	8,829	5	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.080	-0.001	-1.250	0.079	0.079	0.080	0.100	13,825,000
OM0000001681 OMAN EMIRATES HO.	102,200	7,767	14	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.077	-0.001	-1.299	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.100	9,862,500
OM0000004925 ALBATINAH POWER	244,300	18,567	7	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.077	-0.001	-1.299	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.100	51,291,445
Total	20	10,730,116	2,230,773	493											

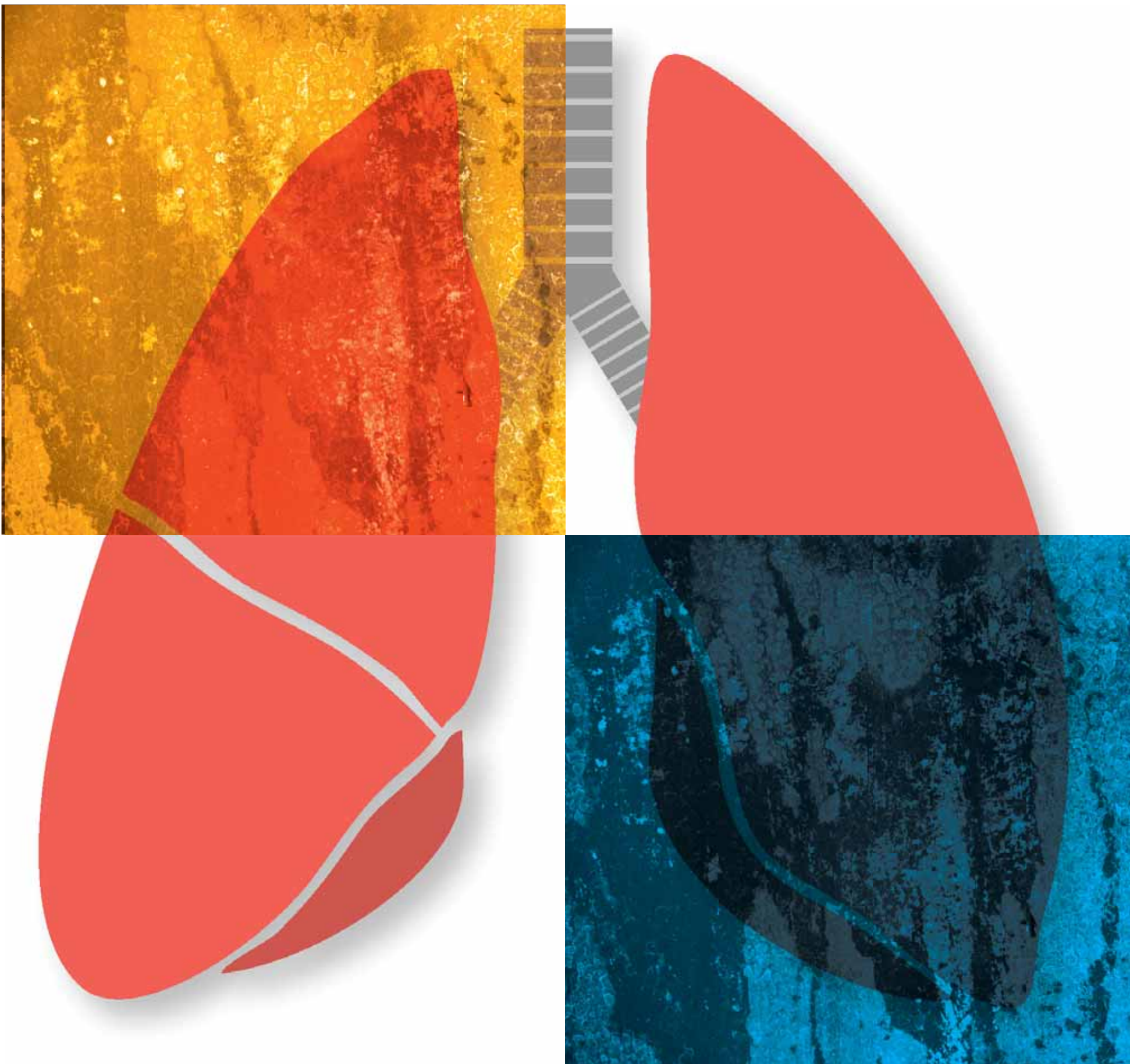
Parallel Market

OM0000001962 AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	155,924	8,038	14	0.050	0.052	0.050	0.052	0.048	0.004	8.333	0.052	0.049	0.052	0.100	4,420,000
OM0000003000 AIMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	3,760	4,023	4	1.070	1.070	1.070	1.070	1.030	0.040	3.883	1.070	1.045	1.070	0.100	73,830,000
OM0000007407 DHOFAR GENERATING	20,000	1,380	2	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.067	0.002	2.985	0.069	0.069	0.070	0.100	15,334,560
OM0000003141 BARKA WATER AND POWER	13,574	3,679	6	0.275	0.275	0.270	0.270	0.263	0.007	2.662	0.270	0.253	0.270	0.100	43,200,000
OM0000006979 OMAN QATAR INSURANCE	13,842	2,713	6	0.177	0.200	0.177	0.200	0.186	0.005	2.564	0.200	0.200	0.205	0.100	32,243,714
OM0000002226 ALJAZEERA SERVICES	45,750	9,556	20	0.209	0.214	0.206	0.214	0.210	0.004	1.905	0.214	0.211	0.214	0.100	13,097,714
OM0000003661 VOLTAMP ENERGY	8,599	3,249	5	0.370	0.380	0.370	0.377	0.370	0.007	1.892	0.377	0.365	0.377	0.100	30,688,837
OM0000002036 MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	80,000	5,395	11	0.065	0.107	0.104	0.107	0.106	0.001	0.943	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.100	1,754,189
OM0000003531 GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	1,530,754	208,779	84	0.133	0.135	0.132	0.135	0.132	0.001	0.758	0.133	0.134	0.135	0.100	26,997,197
OM0000001160 NATIONAL GAS	293,571	27,506	34	0.093	0.094	0.092	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.089	0.097	0.100	7,990,000
OM0000001368 CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	53,750	2,473	1	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.046	0.042	0.100	2,875,000
OM0000001426 OMAN REFRESHMENT	100	112	1	1.120	1.120	1.120	1.120	1.120	0.000	0.000	1.120	0.000	1.120	0.100	58,000,000
OM0000001772 ALANWAR INVESTMENT	48,850	8,810	8	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.077	0.078	0.100	16,550,040
OM0000002200 AHLI BANK	35,344	5,555	2	0.160	0.160	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.100	352,448,620
OM0000002287 GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	240	55	1	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.000	0.000	0.230	0.217	0.231	0.100	10,528,134
OM0000003285 NATIONAL DETERGENT	30	59	1	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.000	0.000	0.650	0.630	0.650	0.100	13,000,000
OM0000007084 MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	1,781	126	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.071	0.076	0.100	11,044,078
OM0000007910 AMAN REAL ESTATE	490	47	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.090	0.095	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000008447 OMAN REIT FUND	293,063	19,933	31	0.069	0.069	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.065	0.068	0.100	33,376,874
OM0000008868 THE PEARL REEF	17,000	1,989	5	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.115	0.119	0.100	39,448,115
OM0000004248 SMN POWER HOLDING	57,000	19,328	3	0.340	0.340	0.339	0.339	0.340	-0.001	-0.294	0.339	0.330	0.340	0.100	67,676,468
OM0000005260 OMAN ARAB BANK	2,424	354	1	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.147	-0.001	-0.680	0.146	0.146	0.150	0.100	243,733,860
OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	62,514	6,599	8	0.105	0.106	0.105	0.105	0.106	-0.001	-0.943	0.105	0.105	0.106	0.100	234,880,068
OM0000005962 PHOENIX POWER	457,128	24,515	29	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.056	0.057	-0.001	-1.754	0.056	0.056	0.059	0.100	81,905,682
OM0000001897 MAJAN COLLEGE	225	25	1	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.111	-0.002	-1.802	0.109	0.110	0.112	0.100	9,810,000
OM0000002648 NATIONAL FINANCE	1,000	143	2	0.150	0.150	0.135	0.135	0.140	-0.005	-3.571	0.135	0.135	0.140	0.100	77,450,078
OM0000001020 OMAN CHROMITE	27,010	115,890	19	4.199	4.199	3.780	4.000	4.200	-0.170	-4.048	4.030	3.780	4.020	0.100	13,299,000
Total	27	318,743	47,320	301											



New research on TB could change how we treat inflammatory disorders

Now, researchers at The Rockefeller University have discovered another unusual mutation that makes its carriers far more likely to develop tuberculosis--but not other infectious diseases. This finding, which was recently published in Nature, has the potential to challenge long-held beliefs about the immune system



TUBERCULOSIS is a perplexing disease. It is the largest cause of mortality from infectious disease worldwide, however, it is believed that such deaths account for just around 5 percent of Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) infections. Antibiotics can be credited with saving the lives of some Mtb patients, but there is still a gap between the prevalence of infection and the intended severity of its effects. An increasing body of research implies that genetic susceptibility to tuberculosis accounts for the disparity.

Now, researchers at The Rockefeller University have discovered another unusual mutation that makes its carriers far more likely to develop tuberculosis--but not other infectious diseases. This finding, which was recently published in Nature, has the potential to challenge long-held beliefs about the immune system.

It's long been known that an acquired deficiency of a pro-inflammatory cytokine called TNF is linked to an increased risk of

developing TB. The current study, led by Rockefeller's Stephanie Boisson-Dupuis and Jean-Laurent Casanova, revealed a genetic cause of TNF deficiency, as well as the underlying mechanism: a lack of TNF incapacitates a specific immune process in the lungs, leading to severe--but surprisingly targeted--illness.

The findings suggest that TNF, long considered a key galvanizer of the immune response, might actually play a much narrower role--a discovery with far-reaching clinical implications.

"The past 40 years of scientific literature have attributed a wide variety of pro-inflammatory functions to TNF," says Casanova, head of the St. Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases. "But beyond protecting the lungs against TB, it may have a limited role in inflammation and immunity."

Casanova's lab has been studying the genetic causes of TB for more than two decades through field work in several countries and

a wide network of collaborating physicians across the world. They maintain an ever-growing database of whole-exome sequences from a global pool of patients--more than 25,000 people to date. Of those, some 2,000 have had TB.

Over the years they've identified several rare genetic mutations that render some people vulnerable to TB. For example, mutations in a gene called CYBB can disable an immune mechanism called the respiratory burst, which produces chemicals called reactive oxygen species (ROS). Despite its pulmonary-sounding name, the respiratory burst takes place in immune cells throughout the body.

ROS help pathogen-consuming white blood cells called phagocytes (from the Greek for "eating") to destroy the invaders they've devoured. If ROS aren't produced, those pathogens can thrive unchecked, leading to debilitating complications. As a result, carriers of this CYBB mutation become vulnerable to not just TB but to a wide variety of infec-

tious diseases.

For the current study, the team suspected that a similar inborn error of immunity may lay behind the severe, recurring TB infections experienced by two people in Colombia--a 28-year-old woman and her 32-year-old cousin--who had been repeatedly hospitalized with significant lung conditions. In each cycle, they initially responded well to anti-TB antibiotics, but within a year, they were sick again.

Puzzlingly, however, their long-term health records showed that their immune systems functioned normally, and that they were otherwise healthy.

To find out why they were particularly prone to getting TB, the researchers performed whole-exome sequencing on the two, as well as a genetic analysis of their respective parents and relatives.

The two were the only members of their extended family with a mutation in the TNF gene, which encodes for proteins linked to the regulation of a variety of biological

processes. Short for "tumor necrosis factor," increased TNF production is also associated with a variety of conditions, including septic shock, cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, and cachexia, which causes dangerous weight loss.

The protein is largely secreted by a type of phagocyte called a macrophage, which relies on the ROS molecules generated by the respiratory burst to finish off pathogens they've consumed.

In these two patients, the TNF gene failed to function, preventing the respiratory burst from occurring, and thus the creation of ROS molecules. As a result, the patients' alveolar macrophages, located in their lungs, were overrun with Mtb.

"We knew that the respiratory burst was important for protecting people against various types of mycobacteria, but now we know that TNF is actually regulating the process," says Boisson-Dupuis. "And when it's missing in alveolar macrophages, people will be susceptible to airborne TB."

She adds, "It's very surprising that the people we studied are adults who have never been sick with other infectious diseases, despite being repeatedly exposed to their microbes. They are apparently selectively at risk for TB."

The discovery also solves a long-standing mystery about why TNF inhibitors, which are used to treat autoimmune and inflammatory diseases, raise the chances of contracting TB. Without TNF, a key part of the defense against it is defunct.

The findings may lead to a radical reassessment of TNF's role in immune function--and new treatment possibilities. "TNF is required for immunity against Mtb, but it seems to be redundant for immunity against many other pathogens," Casanova says. "So the question is, what other pro-inflammatory cytokines are doing the jobs we thought TNF was doing? If we can discover that, we may be able to block these cytokines rather than TNF to treat diseases where inflammation plays a role." - **ANI**

SPORTS

Can't express in words: Bangladesh skipper Shanto after series victory

The skipper said the win will give them confidence as they take on India in the next series

RAWALPINDI: After clean-sweeping Pakistan in the two-match Test series, Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto heaped praise on the team.

The visitors delivered a dominant performance over two weeks, sweeping the Test series against Pakistan 2-0, despite a rain-affected start to the second Test.

"Means a lot, can't express in words. Really happy. We were looking to win here and are very happy with the way everyone has done their job. Very impressive, the work ethic of our pacers was great and that's why we got the result. Everyone is honest with themselves and they want to win, I hope they continue. Joy missed out because of a niggle, and the



way Shadman batted in the first Test was excellent. And even Zakir in this Test, came out positive and got us the momentum," Shanto said in the post-match

presentation.

The skipper said the win will give them confidence as they take on India in the next series.

"Next series is very important

and this win gives us a lot of confidence. We have a lot of experience in Mushi and Shakib, and they will be important in India. (On Miraz) the way he bowled and took 5

wickets in these conditions is very impressive, and hope he can do the same against India. Everyone has chipped in, especially those who weren't getting chances. The four guys who weren't in the XI but helping the team on the field were very impressive. I hope this culture can continue. The party is the manager's call, we have to travel as well but we will go well!" the opener added.

Praise for Mehidy Hasan

Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto showered praise on Mehidy Hasan Miraz's performance in the second Test match against Pakistan and said that it was "brilliant".

Miraz scored 155 runs in his two innings and scalped a total of 10 wickets in the two-match Test series.

Speaking at the post-match press conference, Najmul Hossain was asked about Miraz's performance and said that it was "unbelievable" for him to see a spinner taking five wickets.

"He was just brilliant. The way he bowled on the first day on this wicket - a spinner taking five wickets, it was unbelievable. It was something else," Shanto was quoted by ESPNcricinfo as saying.

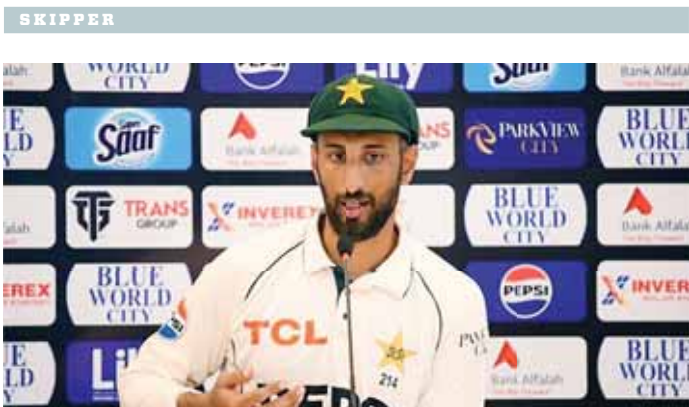
Miraz was later asked about Bangladesh bowlers' performance on foreign pitches when the 26-year-old said that they can take wickets abroad too.

The Bangladesh bowler added that his performance will help him to gain confidence in the future.

"Now you can say that we take wickets abroad too. To be honest, you cannot make a Test player in one or two days. You have to give him time. You have to allow him to do well. It takes time for him to settle into a role and dominate in world cricket. The more time he gets, the better he will be. Maybe my home performances gave me a certain kind of mindset, but now that I am bowling well abroad, I will have this as a reference point to do well in the future. It raises your confidence for the next big series abroad. Confidence comes from records and references. I have both now. I will be more confident next time," Miraz said.

This series victory is also Bangladesh's first Test series win (of two matches or more) against a team other than Zimbabwe and the West Indies, according to the ICC.

The win has boosted Bangladesh in the ICC World Test Championship standings. **-ANI**



Shan Masood feels Pakistan need to bring 'consistency'

RAWALPINDI: After Pakistan's disappointing series defeat against Bangladesh, skipper Shan Masood said that the side needs to bring 'consistency' in team selection.

Pakistan conceded a six-wicket defeat against Bangladesh in the second Test match in Rawalpindi.

Masood displayed an eye-catching performance in the first inning, scoring 57 runs from 69 balls at a strike rate of 82.61. In the second inning, he scored 28 runs from 34 balls.

Speaking at the post-match press conference, Masood pointed out the problems while selecting a player.

"We will have to work on bringing in consistency in selection. You will have to bear with player's failures. It's not just about Babar Azam, the more consistently you give a chance to someone, the better he will perform. You will have to search where you will get that player who can be an automatic selection on current form. Since, we're not playing red ball cricket currently, we don't

have many options to pick from. We played the same team which we took to Australia and was successful for Pakistan domestically and at international level," Masood said.

The Pakistan skipper added that he is not too worried about his captaincy being taken away after the series loss against Bangladesh.

"I am not worried for my job security. I took this job to make the changes we believe will help this team. If I believe this team can go in a certain direction, even if my personal failure takes Pakistan in that direction, I will be content. However much time I get I'll be grateful for and do my best," he added.

The 10-wicket victory in the first match marked Bangladesh's maiden Test win over Pakistan. A repeat of this performance in the second Test solidified a historic achievement for the team.

This series victory is also Bangladesh's first Test series win (of two matches or more) against a team other than Zimbabwe and the West Indies. **-ANI**

Josh Hull to make debut for England in final Test

LONDON: England named their playing XI for the third and final Test of their home series against Sri Lanka, with young seamer Josh Hull set to get his maiden Test cap.

England and the Wales Cricket Board (ECB) released a statement to announce their playing XI for the final Test against the Asian side, beginning on Friday at The Oval.

"England Men have announced their XI for the third Rothesay Test match against Sri Lanka, starting at the Kia Oval on Friday, 6 September," ECB said in a statement.

Hull, a 20-year-old left-arm quick, has replaced Matthew Potts from the playing XI.

The Leicestershire seamer has been making a name for himself in England's domestic set-up in the past 12 months.

At 6'7, Hull would be keen to use his height as an advantage to generate bounce off the surface and cause Sri Lanka batters trouble.

Potts, who got replaced for the final Test, scythed only five wickets in four innings. But he struck when England needed to break partnerships across both Tests.

Hull's inclusion alongside Olly Stone and Gus Atkinson will add more firepower to England's talented bowling line-up.

Pope said that Hull could use his height to his advantage to extract "extra bounce" and force out edges from the opposition batters.

"When you're 6ft 7in and you can get it down pushing up to the 85-90mph mark, and with a bit of swing with the left-arm angle, there's a lot to like about it," Pope said. **-ANI**

Just believed in myself: Litton Das after dominant performance in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: Bangladesh wicket-keeper batter Litton Das stepped up for his team when they were dwindling at 26/6 in the second Test against Pakistan. He scored 138 off 228 deliveries which included 13 boundaries and 4 maximums. He rescued the team with Mehidy Hasan Miraz (78) to a respectable score of 262.

His match winning performance earned him the player of the match.

After the match, jubilant Litton said, "Just believed in myself, Pakistan bowled well in that spell but me and Hasan Miraz wanted to just bat long. He hit a four and a six and then the momentum shifted."

The two forged a partnership with him of 175 runs

"When Hasan came, I didn't have many scoring opportunities, so I took time and wanted to play as many overs as possible. Credit to Hasan as well for batting really well. I like keeping in Tests, that is my role and when I do well behind the wicket, the team does well too," he said.

"When we came here, things back home weren't up to the mark, but we came here and practiced hard. It is all about team effort, credit to all and the coaching staff. Not easy playing in this kind of heat," he said.

2-0 win

Bangladesh delivered a thoroughly dominant performance over two weeks, sweeping the Test series against Pakistan 2-0, despite a rain-affected start to the second Test.



The 10-wicket victory in the first match marked Bangladesh's maiden Test win over Pakistan. A repeat of this performance in the second Test solidified a historic achievement for the team.

This series victory is also Bangladesh's first Test series win (of two matches or more)

against a team other than Zimbabwe and the West Indies, according to the ICC.

The win has boosted Bangladesh in the ICC World Test Championship standings, propelling them to No. 4 with a points percentage of 45.83, leapfrogging England. **-ANI**

ENGLAND'S WHITE-BALL COACH

Don't doubt his credentials: Atherton on McCullum's appointment

LONDON: After Brendon McCullum was appointed as the head coach of England's white-ball teams in addition to the Test team, former England cricketer Michael Atherton said that it will be a big challenge for the ex-New Zealand skipper.

McCullum has been sitting at the helm of England's Test team since May 2022. He has extended his contract, which will run until the end of 2027. Under his new contract, McCullum will assume leadership of both the Test and white-ball teams starting January 2025, coinciding with England's white-ball tour of India and the ICC Champions Trophy next year.

Under his helm, English Test side made a strong revival, redefining the batting style in tests. The aggressive approach that helped

Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed that Test head coach Brendon McCullum will also serve as the head coach of England's white-ball teams "as part of a strategic restructure" for the Three Lions senior set-up.

McCullum has been sitting at the helm of England's Test team since May 2022. He has extended his contract, which will run until the end of 2027. Under his new contract, McCullum will assume leadership of both the Test and white-ball teams starting January 2025, coinciding with England's white-ball tour of India and the ICC Champions Trophy next year.

Under his helm, English Test side made a strong revival, redefining the batting style in tests. The aggressive approach that helped



England win some great matches and series. This new style of cricket under Stokes- and McCullum has been named 'Bazball'.

Speaking on the Sky Sports Cricket podcast, Atherton said, "When England went to New Zealand for a Test tour last time and the series finished, there was a white-ball series in Bangladesh the next day. Now, in his appointment, he makes the point that the schedule has eased a bit from 2025. There aren't those crossovers that there were, but I still think it is going to be a big challenge."

Atherton added that he doesn't doubt McCullum's credentials but it will be an added responsibility for the head coach.

"I don't doubt McCullum's credentials at all, but the challenge

will be just the extra responsibility, the extra time that it takes to plan and prepare and get a one-day team ready to play," he added.

"That's how India have done it. They've had one man doing both, Rahul Dravid, until recently, but others have stepped in from time to time to give the head coach a break. When McCullum took the Test job, he said he thought the one-day job was a bit of a cushy role because that was going so well under Eoin Morgan and the Test team was more of a challenge, and that's almost flipped now," he further added.

After England's ongoing Test series against Sri Lanka concludes at the Kia Oval next week, McCullum will take a short break at home in New Zealand. **-ANI**

IN PICTURES



“Art of the Brick” exhibition held
A child views an exhibit during the ‘Art of the Brick’ exhibition at Singapore Expo in Singapore. *Xinhua*



‘Bubble Planet!’ exhibition held at Singapore Expo
Visitors immerse themselves in an exhibit during the “Bubble Planet!” exhibition at Singapore Expo in Singapore, Sept. 2, 2024. *Xinhua*



Kuse Aunsi festival celebrated in Nepal
People perform a ritual during Kuse Aunsi, or Father's Day, at Gokarna Temple on the bank of Bagmati River in Kathmandu, Nepal. Kuse Aunsi is a Hindu festival in which fathers, living or past, are honoured. *Xinhua*



Exhibition of cultural, creative works by women with disabilities held in Paris
A visitor appreciates exhibits at the ‘Beautiful Crafts Workshop, Blossoming in Paris’ exhibition of cultural and creative works by women with disabilities at Chinese Cultural Centre in Paris, France. *Xinhua*



Syrian parents struggle economically to prepare children for new school year
People buy school supplies for the upcoming academic year at a marketplace in Damascus, Syria. *Xinhua*



Urfi Javed poses for a photograph during the promotion of her show ‘Follow karlo yaar’
Actress Urfi Javed poses for a photograph during the promotion of her show ‘Follow karlo yaar’, in Mumbai. *ANI Photo*

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ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat celebrates relocation of Falaj Daris branch in Nizwa

The relocated branch is characterized by its modern design and its large space that gives customers a distinctive banking experience. It is equipped with cutting-edge devices that allow customers to complete their banking transactions in a comfortable atmosphere

MUSCAT: With the aim of providing the best banking services and facilities that meet the needs of valued customers and provide a unique banking experience, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, officially celebrated the relocation of its branch in Falaj Daris, known as Marfa Daris previously, in the Wilayat of Nizwa under the auspices of Sheikh Saleh bin Dhiyab Al Rubaie, Wali of Nizwa, and in the presence of senior officials and customers from the Bank. It is noteworthy that Bank Muscat has 4 branches in Nizwa catering to the needs of its wide base of customers in the willayat. The relocated branch is characterized by its modern design and its large space that gives customers a distinctive banking experience. It is equipped with cutting-



edge devices that allow customers to complete their banking transactions in a comfortable atmosphere. Falaj Daris branch is located in a well-serviced and unique area. It has a center for Asalah Priority Banking customers manned by relationship managers to process transactions efficiently in no time. The branch also offers dedicated services, including Baituna for Home loans and Najahi Business Banking centre, and safe deposit lockers. The branch is also designed to facilitate access of people with disabilities to all branch services, including ATMs and CDMs, as part of Bank Muscat's strategy to provide a unique banking experience to all segments of society. The services provided by the branch can be availed during weekdays from Sunday to Thursday starting from eight in the morning until two noon. Speaking on the occasion, Taya Eid Bait Sabeea, Deputy General Manager Interior Regions, Bank



Muscat, said: "We are pleased about the relocation of this branch which comes as a complement to the series of relocations and inaugurations of branches across different governorates. Bank Muscat's strategy regarding developing branches indicates the tireless efforts of the Bank to bring banking

services closer to customers while providing a comfortable environment for completing banking transactions. The Bank will continue to open more modern, spacious, technologically-equipped branches to meet the needs of the Bank's growing customer base and go in line with the banking trends."

Over the past period, Bank Muscat inaugurated a new branch in Sahalnoot in the Wilayat of Salalah and relocated its Jalaan Bani Bu Ali branch in South Sharqiya Governorate. Multiple inaugurations of new branched also occurred in different locations across the Sultanate such as Sohar, Seeb, Sinaw,

and Amerat. The Bank's branch network constitutes a significant channel to communicate with customers and provide them with the various banking services. As the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, Bank Muscat has an extensive branch network of 185 branches and more than 860 devices, including ATMs and CDMs, distributed throughout the country. Thanks to this strong and extensive network, Bank Muscat is the first choice for a large number of customers. The Bank also plays a key role in promoting financial inclusion through its innovative products. It is constantly updating its digital channels to enhance customers' banking experience. As of now, a large number of customers benefit from a wide range of services offered through digital channels, including bill payments, local and international money transfers, and applying for new products and services.

SUV

Lexus LX is engineered for a perfect driving experience

MUSCAT: Lexus' powerful LX SUV is the epitome of prowess and finesse. Embark on an exhilarating journey with fine Japanese craftsmanship complementing the taste of true luxury enthusiasts; the LX enables deeper and more intuitive control. Create your perfect experiences while off-roading or cruising through highways. Discover endless possibilities with LX's two powertrain options. The first LX600 variant boasts a 3.5-litre petrol engine producing 409 hp and up to 66.28 kg of torque. Whereas, the V6 twin-turbo engine 3.5-litre diesel variant is capable of 302 hp and up to 71.38 kg of torque paired with a standard 10-speed automatic transmission. With its incredible power and remarkable style the LX is built to tackle tricky terrains. Experience the pinnacle in luxury with Lexus' stunning cabin, which is enhanced by innovative technology features. Based on the Japanese concept of Tazuna, the cockpit design emphasizes keeping the driver's attention on the road while drawing important information on the screen. Indulge in an elevated driving performance with high-tech features of the 4WD that include a 12.3-inch multimedia touchscreen display compatible with Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto and a lower 7-inch display for navigation, audio, climate controls, and



other driver support functions. Gear up for the drive with its head-up display, an 8-inch colour Multi-information Display (MID), and a wireless smartphone charging tray for seamless connectivity. Set the mood by adjusting the inside temperature to your liking with the 4-zone automatic climate control system with rear control

switches for the back passengers. Lexus LX creates the perfect balance between elegance and power. Explore new horizons and venture out in class with the built-in Lexus Safety System+ that enables peace of mind. Some of LX's noteworthy safety features comprise an upgraded Pre-Collision System and advanced speed control systems

such as the Full-Speed Dynamic Radar Cruise Control with Curve Speed Reduction that maintains speed and vehicle balance during tricky curves. Additionally, the drivers also benefit from Lane Tracing Alert, Lane Departure Alert, and Adaptive High-Beam System. Moving up a notch, the LX Grandeur model boasts exclusive interior

features, including two large heated rear seats with ventilation, massage and recline option, a Rear Seat Entertainment (RSE) system with an 11.6-inch anti-reflective screen, and built-in ottoman leg support. Command attention on the road with LX Sport Edition, specially curated for sports luxury enthusiasts. Accelerate your journey with

exhilarating performance and an impressive exterior, designed for a bespoke experience. Based on your needs, choose between 4, 5 and 7-seater options at your nearest Lexus Oman showroom. Witness the premium range of SUVs, HEVs, sedans, and coupes and become a Lexus owner to experience special privileges and support.





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As the Khareef season unfolded across Dhofar's lush landscape, Vodafone Oman delivered on its promise to make every moment fulfilled through its "Catch the Moment" campaign. Explore the highlights of a season filled with immersive activities, exclusive adventures, and memorable experiences.



Bus of Wonders: Discovering Dhofar Like Never Before

Passengers explored Dhofar's hidden treasures aboard the Bus of Wonders. Majestic landscapes, local cuisines, and rich cultural experiences made this adventure one to remember.



+ 6,000
Passengers

3 Salalah

Up Town Salalah

1 Attin Square

4 Ain Hamran

Ain Razat

5 Dahariz Beach

Sahalnoot

6

7



Al Haffa Pop-Up Store: A Sensory Journey to Remember



The Al Haffa Pop-Up Store was a standout attraction of the season. Visitors were transported into the heart of Dhofar through sensory-rich rooms and cutting-edge technology that brought the region's vibrant details to life

Endless Fun Across Dhofar

Vodafone Oman's fun activations spread joy across Dhofar's iconic locations turning the Khareef season into a celebration of life, culture, and connection. For the second consecutive year, the company's partnership with Mwasalat made visits to Wadi Darbat extra special.



+17
Activities



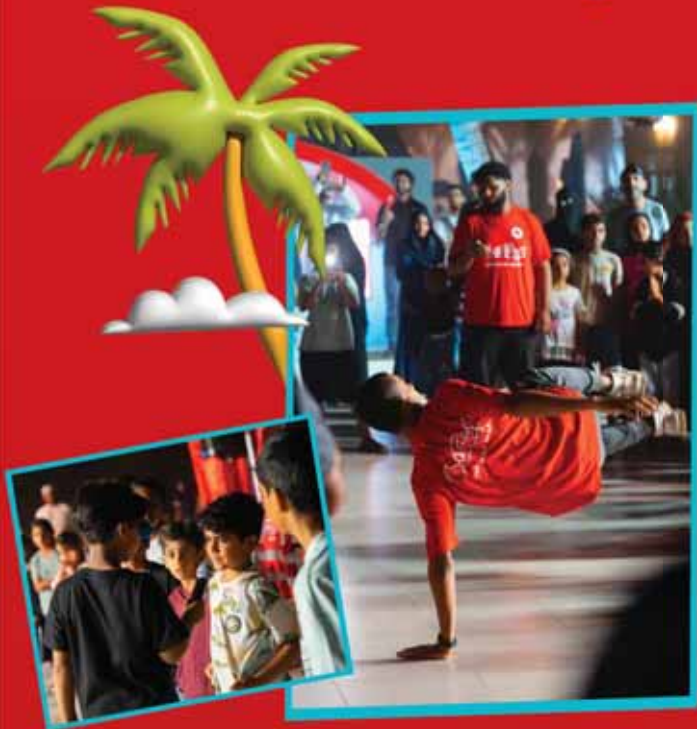
+10,000
Participants



+2,000
Vodafone
Passport Holders



+171,000
Visitors to
Wadi Darbat



A Season to Remember

'Catch the Moment' was more than just a series of events; it was about creating lasting memories and connecting people with what matters most. From the Bus of Wonders to the Al Haffa Pop-Up Store, Vodafone delivered unforgettable experiences that will be remembered for years to come.



CATCH THE MOMENT





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