



NAMA ANNOUNCES 60% IMPLEMENTATION OF SOLAR POWER PROJECTS IN MANAH

Nama Power and Water Procurement Company announced that it achieved 60 percent implementation of Manah 1 and Manah 2 solar energy projects in the wilayat of Manah, Al Dakhiliyah Governorate. The electricity generation projects, whose lumpsum cost stands at about \$800 million, constitute a major milestone in the Sultanate of Oman's drive to cut down the carbon footprint. **>A2**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Initiatives to boost job opportunities

1 Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, confirmed that the ministry will announce new jobs for Omanis in various sectors starting from January 2025 until the end of 2027. This will be done after completing the necessary formalities in coordination with the Ministry of Labour. **>A3**

WORLD OIC condemns killing of Palestinians

2 The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has strongly condemned the gruesome carnage committed by the Israeli occupation in Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis, and Al-Shatti refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, during which the Israeli occupation forces slaughtered hundreds of civilians and injured others, mostly women and children. The OIC considered this a continuation of the genocide. **>A6**

MARKET Oman's real estate deals rise by 1.3%

3 The value of traded property in Oman increased by 1.3 per cent to OMR1,237.0 million till the end of May 2024, compared to OMR1,220.6 million in the same period of 2023, according to the NCSCI. Fees collected for legal transactions amounted to OMR27.2 million till the end of May 2024, constituting a decrease of 5.7 per cent compared to the corresponding period of 2023. **>B1**

OMAN REAFFIRMS STEADFAST SUPPORT FOR PALESTINE PEOPLE AT UNRWA MEET



Deaths
38,584
Injured
88,881

At the UNRWA conference, Oman highlighted the dire conditions in Gaza Strip

NEW YORK: The Sultanate of Oman has reaffirmed its steadfast support for the relief of the Palestinian people until they achieve their full, inalienable rights, particularly their right to live in dignity and establish an independent state with Al Quds



A'Sharqiyah (East Jerusalem) as its capital.

This statement was made by Dr. Mohammed Awadh Al Hassan, Oman's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), during an international conference at the UN headquarters in New York aimed

at supporting the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

At the conference, Oman highlighted the dire conditions in the Gaza Strip, calling them humanly unacceptable.

The Sultanate urged the international community to take prompt action to implement resolutions of international legitimacy and protect the Palestinian people.

"In the history of the United Nations, the world has never witnessed the murder of 200 international employees amid inaction by the international community in the face of such systematic crimes targeting international relief workers," Al Hassan remarked.

- ONA

Sayyid Badr discusses Gaza killings with Hamas leader

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received a phone call on Saturday night from Ismail Haniyeh, Head of Hamas Movement's Political Bureau.

The telephonic conversation dealt with the recent Israeli occupation forces' aerial bombardment that targeted unarmed civilians in Mawasi Khan Yunis area and in the Shati camp in the Gaza Strip. The bombardment left hundreds of women, children and elderly dead or injured.

The two sides discussed the negotiations sponsored by the United States of America in coordination with the State of Qatar and the Arab Republic of Egypt. The talks cover measures to reach a ceasefire agreement and realise the release of prisoners and detainees.

Sayyid Badr affirmed the Sultanate of Oman's steadfast support for the just Palestinian cause. He reiterated Oman's appeal upon the international community to put an end to the Israeli aggressions and terrorist crimes that, he said, have been committed for months against the Palestinian people amid failure to deter the aggressions or hold Israel culpable for its actions.

In this context, Sayyid Badr stressed the need for



urgent international action to protect civilians and provide the necessary humanitarian assistance and relief aid to the defenceless Palestinian population.

For his part, Ismail Haniyeh expressed his thanks and appreciation for the stances of the Sultanate of Oman in support for the just Palestinian cause. He stressed the importance of continuous communication and constructive dialogue to end the crisis through enhanced global efforts to implement relevant international resolutions.

Haniyeh affirmed that the leadership of Hamas movement gave its approval for the ceasefire project presented by the United States and that Hamas responded, in a constructive spirit, to the efforts made in this context by the State of Qatar and the Arab Republic of Egypt. - ONA



Dhofar turns into
a carpet of green
following rains

A2

ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

Oman condemns shooting at Donald Trump

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has expressed its condemnation of the shooting incident on Donald Trump, former President of the United States of America, which occurred during his election campaign rally in Pennsylvania. Oman wished him a speedy recovery.

In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry on Sunday, Oman affirmed its firm stance in rejecting all forms of violence, regardless of the motives.

Meanwhile, the former US President thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers yes-

terday, when he was the target of what the FBI called an assassination attempt in Pennsylvania.

He also sent his love to the other victims and their families. "We pray for the recovery of those who were wounded and hold in our hearts the memory of the citizen who was so horribly killed," Trump said.

"In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand united, and show our true character as Americans, remaining strong and determined," he said.

See also >A7



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PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:18pm
Asr.....	3:38pm
Maghrib.....	7:01pm
Isha.....	8:22pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:04am

With abundant rains, Dhofar turns into a carpet of green

Oman is currently affected by eastern waves, which are a type of weather conditions that form in tropical and subtropical regions and are laden with humid air masses

Times News Service

SALALAH: Dhofar Governorate has been lashed by continuous rains since the start of the Khareef season. This has led to a drop in temperatures to less than 28 degrees Celsius, in addition to the formation of fog on the mountainous heights.

The Sultanate of Oman is currently affected by varying eastern waves, which are a type of weather conditions that form in tropical and subtropical regions and are laden with humid air masses accompanied by slight decrease in atmospheric pressure, leading to the possibility of rain and thunderstorms.

Regarding the impact of these waves on the Dhofar Khareef season this year, Ahmed bin Salem Ghawas, Director of the Meteorology Department at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation in Dhofar Governorate, said: "This climatic condition increases the amount of rainfall and is a reason for the in-



crease in the rains for this season of the year."

He added that one of the results that Dhofar Governorate is currently witnessing due to this climatic condition is an increase in the amount of rains of varying intensity, in contrast to the usual rains at this time of year (continuous and intermittent drizzle accompanied by light rain sometimes), in addition to thunderstorms in some parts of the governorate, especially desert areas.

He pointed out that the autumn season is characterised by continuous and intermittent drizzle, sometimes accompanied by light rain, and low horizontal visibility, which may reach less than 1,000 metres in coastal areas, and zero horizontal visibility in mountainous areas.

Low clouds also cover the mountains and coastal areas, where the base of these clouds touches the mountains, forming the dense fog that we see on the mountains, and may reach a height of 200 feet above the ground in coastal areas.

He pointed out that the amount



of rain during the autumn season increases in mountainous areas facing the direction of the monsoon winds than in areas parallel to the monsoon winds, and the speed of the southern winds also increases in mountainous and desert areas.

The Director of the Meteorology Department in Dhofar Governorate explained that the scientific name for the autumn phenomenon is (Monsoon), which is derived from the Arabic word "season" that was known to Arab and

Omani sailors which helped them in sailing towards the Indian sub-continent in the summer.

He stressed that the main cause of this phenomenon is the monsoon winds caused by the huge seasonal high in the southern Indian Ocean near the island of Madagascar in the southern hemisphere, called the Mascarene High.

This high causes the southwest monsoon winds to blow, which are south easterly in the southern hemisphere along East Africa and turn southwesterly when they



tracts the monsoon winds towards the governorate, carrying large amounts of water vapour. The warm monsoon winds, loaded with water vapour, come into contact with the cold sea water, which condenses it. The monsoon winds continue their direction towards the mountains, which causes them to be perpendicular and collide with the mountains of Dhofar Governorate.

This causes the air loaded with water vapour to rise higher, which leads to greater and greater condensation of water vapour, forming low clouds that cause drizzle and fog to fall.

It is worth noting that the autumn season, which began astronomically on June 21 and continues until September 21, is characterised by cloudy and rainy weather and moderate temperatures that drop further in the high mountainous areas shrouded in fog accompanied by light rain, making Dhofar Governorate a destination for visitors and tourists from inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman. -With ONA inputs

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Media programmes to start from 15 July

SALALAH: The Ministry of Information, represented by the Directorate General of Information in the Governorate of Dhofar will begin on Monday, 15 July 2024, broadcasting media programmes for the 2024 Khareef Dhofar (monsoon) season.

Package of radio, TV

The programmes will be broadcasted in accordance with a comprehensive media plan, which includes a package of radio, TV programmes and news

and press reports, as well as diverse electronic media content dedicated to social media platforms.

New vision

This year's comprehensive media plan comes with a new vision that aims to cover tourism events and link the events with human culture, the characteristics of different places and the cultural and civilisational richness of the Sultanate of Oman.



-ONA

CRIMES

Four arrested for theft in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has arrested four expatriates for stealing electrical cables and wires from farms and homes under construction in the North Al Batinah Governorate.

A statement issued by the ROP said: "The North Al Batinah Governorate Police Command arrested

four people of Asian nationality for stealing electrical cables and wires from farms and homes under construction."

Drug seized

Two expatriates were arrested for possessing crystal drug in North Al Batinah Governorate, the Royal Oman Police (ROP) said.

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AL DAKHILIYAH GOVERNORATE

Nama announces 60% implementation of solar power projects in Manah

MANAH: Nama Power and Water Procurement Company announced that it achieved 60 per cent implementation of Manah 1 and Manah 2 solar energy projects in the wilayat of Manah, Al Dakhiliyah Governorate.

The electricity generation projects, whose lumpsum cost stands at about \$800 million, constitute a major milestone in the Sultanate of Oman's drive to cut down the carbon footprint and limit demand for natural gas.

1,000 megawatts

Ahmed Salim Al Abri, Acting CEO of Nama Power and Water Procurement Company, said that the production capacity of "Manah 1 and Manah 2" solar energy projects touches 1,000 megawatts, mainly through the use of solar photovoltaic technology.

The projects cover a total area of 14.5 million square metres and comprise more than two million square metres.

The total length of their cables extends more than 3,000 km. The projects will supply power to more than 120,000 residential units.

Commercial operation of "Manah 1" project is expected to commence during the first quarter of 2025, while "Manah 2" project is expected to begin commercial operation in the second quarter of the same year.



-ONA

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COMMENTARY

A job that threatens your health

SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

I was sitting all alone in a coffee shop when I noticed an old friend standing a few hundred meters away from me looking completely lost.

I noticed that he was still standing in the same position five minutes later. I thought he was waiting for someone but when he was still standing there for another couple of minutes, I decided to make a move.

I left my seat and walked to him. He smiled when he saw me and shook my hand so warmly that it left me completely surprised but very curious. I asked him to join me for coffee. He gladly accepted.

Then another surprise followed. While we were waiting for our drink, he never spoke a

word. I looked at him and his mind was obviously not where he was sitting. It was travelling in the clouds of deep thoughts.

When the coffee arrived, I decided to snap him out of his thoughtful mood. I asked him what was really bothering him? He told me new his job was driving him crazy.

He is now a personal assistant of a government minister. He worked twelve hours a day and literally reduced to a servant to that important man.

He worked even on weekends. He went to tell me all about his daily working routine. When he is finally at home, he was both mentally and physically tired that he did not have time for his family.

As if to prove right what he was telling me, his phone rang. He looked at his mobile phone and I could see the pain on his face. He got up into his feet quickly, paced around while he was talking on the phone. Then he came back and sighed.

Yes, it was his boss and wanted him back. It was just after five in the evening and he had to go back to the office about eight thirty the same evening. He left immediately looking very frustrated. I felt sorry for him. Obviously, he did

not deserve it. He was caught in a job that he needed to make a living.

I guess many people are exactly in the same position. They toil away for hours in a 'bad' job and cannot get out of it just because they need the money. Some employers do not care but want to get the job done just because they were paying their employees. It is not a slave labour but very much close to it knowing that, as an employer, they have a noose around the neck of the worker.

I do not need to check with therapists but I guess a bad job contributes to the majority of unhappiness of many employed people. I am not an expert but it leads to mental health problems and the stress can break the physical health,

too, like heart diseases and other ailments.

But there was good news for my friend. I saw him last week again and I noticed that there was a spring on his footsteps as he was walking inside a shopping mall. I shouted his name and he turned around with a bright smile on his face.

Before I could say anything, he offered me coffee and we went to sit down in a café. The moment he completed the order, he rubbed his hands together and told me he quit- ted his job two weeks ago. He could not take it anymore. It was either his job or his sanity and he chose the latter.

When I asked how is he go- ing to earn his living after quit- ting? He said he was working on it but his peace of mind was better than money.

BIDS HIM FAREWELL

Abbas awards medal to Oman's Chargé d'Affairs

RAMALLAH: President Mahmoud Abbas of the State of Palestine on Sunday pinned the Medal of Merit and Distinction on Salim Habib Al Omaili, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Palestine.

This took place when the Pres- ident of Palestine received the Chargé d'Affaires at the presiden- tial headquarters in Ramallah, to bid him farewell at the end of his tour of duty.

The medal was awarded to Al Omaili in recognition of his dis- tinguished role in strengthening fraternal relations and coopera- tion between the two countries. It also comes in appreciation for his efforts in supporting the Palestinian people and their just cause to gain freedom and independence. -ONA

Plan to enhance Omanisation in transport sector

The ministry has set annual Omanisation targets until the year 2040

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology is imple- menting several initiatives to en- hance employment opportunities in two distinct sectors: "the trans- port and logistics sector" and "the communications and informa- tion technology sector".

The initiatives focus on oper- ating governance and endorsing necessary policies to regulate the labour market within the frame- work of Oman Vision 2040.

Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Informa- tion Technology, affirmed that the Ministry would announce some jobs intended to be allo- cated entirely to Omanis from January 2025 to the end of 2027, after liaising with the Ministry of Labour.

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Informa- tion Technology's plan envisages 20% Omanization in the "trans- portation and logistics sector" and 31% Omanisation in the "communications and informa- tion technology sector", said the minister.

He added that the Ministry's strategy sets a minimum level for the employment of Omanis in proportion to the growth of pro- fessions related to the abovementioned two sectors.

Accordingly, the strategy regu- lates work permits, oversight, in- spection, professional level tests,

profession designations, wage support and training.

The minister pointed out that the Omanisation initiative in the "transport and logistics sec- tor" range envisages 20%-50% replacement of expats as a first phase, with effect from 2025.

Then, the percentages will be raised annually until the Omani- sation rate reaches 100%.

The target jobs fall in the mari- time, air, and land transport fields, said the minister, noting that the target segments include all ad- ministrative and specialised cat- egories. The targeted professions have been identified through analysis of the data of those occu- pying the jobs.

As for the "communications and information technology sec- tor", the initiative envisages 50%

to 100% Omanisation by 2026, said the minister.

He added that the Ministry seeks to integrate the desired work system through coordina- tion with partners in the two sectors.

The ministry also encourages the "Self-Employment Initiative" in the two sectors, said the minis- ter. He explained that the step is aimed at generating employment opportunities for Omanis by ded- icating, to the Self-Employment Register, some business activities that are licensed by the Ministry.

The ministry will also apply the in-country value (ICV) scheme to companies that are assigned projects by the ministry, notably those awarded projects worth more than OMR3 million, with ef- fect from 2025. -ONA

Transforming Futures: Inside TLC International School's Inspiring Journey

Ms. Sally Vale- Academic Director

As the Academic Director of TLC International School Azaiba, I am privileged to lead a community that has been fostering excellence in education since our founding in 2008.

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7. By 2030 we will have provision up to Grade 12.

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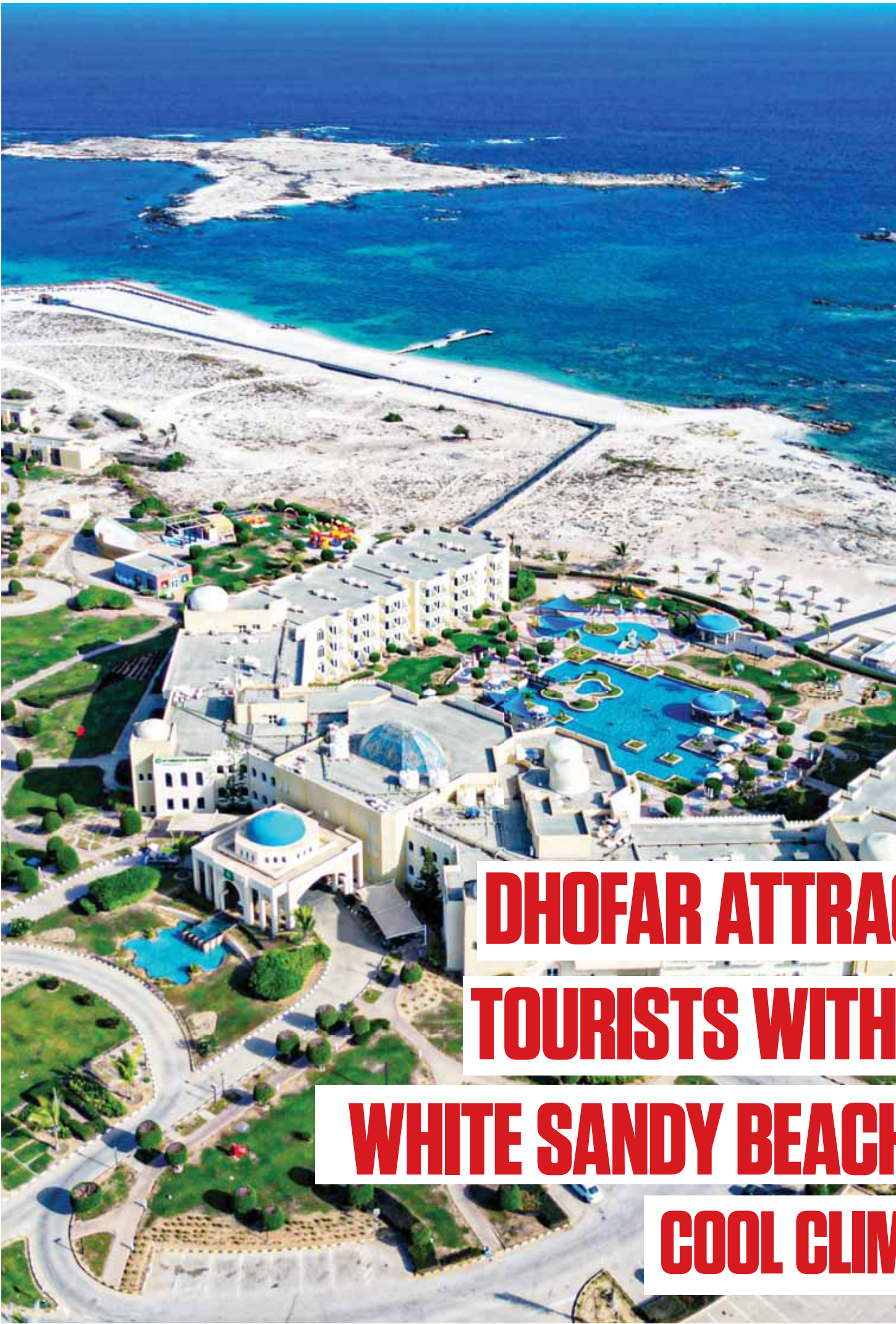
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Join us at TLC, where every child's journey is a story of growth, achievement, and limitless possibilities.



DHOFAR ATTRACTS TOURISTS WITH ITS WHITE SANDY BEACHES, COOL CLIMATE

Turquoise sea
water, white sands,
charming landscapes
and unique natural
fountains are a treat
to watch

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dhofar Governorate has many beautiful beaches that are ideal for visitors and beachgoers where they can spend their time and enjoy the Khareef season.

Al Dahariz Beach, overlooking the Arabian Sea with its soft white sand, is one of the most beautiful beaches in the city of Salalah. It's a long white sandy beach surrounded by tall, picturesque hookah trees. Families visit this beach to spend an enjoyable time and practice various water activities.

The beach, which extends over an area of more than 3,500 square metres, contains many services such as restaurants, cafes, places designated for barbecues, and public facilities. It is also located near the Khor Al-Dharez Reserve, which is rich in wildlife and includes different types of plants, fish, and migratory birds such as flamingos.

The Dahariz Beach front was designed with a touristic character to attract families, and lighting provided for the corridors, public parking lots, the walkways, in a way to suit their nature at night.

Al Mughsayl Beach is about 40 kilometres away from Salalah city centre towards the west. It is one of the most famous tourist attractions in Dhofar Governorate, and a favourite among citizens, residents and tourists.

It also represents a long stretch of blue sea water and white sand, and includes a group of charming natural landscapes and unique natural fountains. It is

located between a series of mountains, which gives the place a distinctive natural background.

Due to the wonderful nature of the atmosphere in Khareef days, Al-Mughsayl Beach receives visitors throughout the day to enjoy its beautiful tourist attractions and watch the roaring waves of the Arabian Sea, which increase in height during the autumn season.

Swimming is prohibited from June 21 to September 21 of each year due to the high levels of sea waves.

The Mughsayl area has upgraded its tourism infrastructure, the most notable of which is the development of the Mughsayl waterfront on an area of 174.6 thousand square metres, which contains a family area, parking lots, an arena for events and activities, kiosks selling food, a number of restaurants, and an extended walkway on the beach, in addition to seating umbrellas, picnic sites, green spaces,

and places for exercise, marine sports, an adventure park and children's games.

Wilayat of Taqah is considered one of the most important marine fishing areas in the Dhofar Governorate, as it is famous for fishing, especially "sardines", which are used after drying as animal feed and fertilisers for agriculture. Most of the state's people practice fishing and livestock raising. The state also contains archaeological sites and picturesque tourist places.

The beach of wilayat of Taqah extends over a distance of 5 kilometres and is characterised by its soft silver sand and the spread of coconut trees along the sea road, while Khor Ruri Beach is a natural extension of the beach of Taqah City and is distinguished by its strategic location near the archaeological site of the ancient city of Samharam, being an important historic landmark in the governorate.

The beach is located in the old port of Samharam, which was a former site for exporting Omani frankincense to different regions around the world.

The natural features of the Wilayat of Taqah are diverse, as it is a coastal state that contains beaches, plains, and mountains, and is dotted with many caves, in addition to Taqah Creek, Ruri Creek, and many natural water springs.

In the east of the Dhofar Governorate, the Wilayat of Mirbat is distinguished by its coastal location overlooking the Arabian Sea, its diverse beaches, coral reefs and attractive bays, as it is about 76 kilometres away from the city of Salalah and is considered one of the important historical and tourist cities in the governorate.

Mirbat Beach is distinguished by its natural beauty, silver sand, coral rocks, and small bays known locally as (Al Khayas), which are rich in fish wealth and coral reefs, making it the most prominent tourist diving sites in the Sultanate of Oman.

A large number of residents of the wilayat of Mirbat work in the fishing profession, which provides them with an abundant livelihood, allowing the visitors to learn about some of the customs and traditions related to fish wealth and enjoy watching the movement of the ships docked at the pier of the sea port and the fish market in the wilayat.

The historic fort of Mirbat is located on the coast of the old port of Mirbat, and the old state market is considered one of the oldest historic markets for selling goods imported from India, East Africa, and the ports of Basra and Aden, such as dates, leather, fabrics, and various products, in addition to Omani frankincense, which was the main commodity in this market.

Wilayat of Mirbat witnesses an active tourist movement throughout the year, especially in the fall season and on weekends to enjoy fishing, watch natural beauty, visiting historical sites and ancient lanes, in addition to watching coral reefs and sea waves due to the diversity of its rare marine resources.

Among the most prominent rare marine fisheries in the Wilayat of Mirbat are Al-Safilah "abalone" and "Sharkha", as the wealth of "Al-Safilah" is limited to the beaches located between the Wilayat of Mirbat and the Niyabat of Sharbat in the Wilayat of Shalim and the Al-Halaniyat Islands.

The Omani Abalone Farming Project for the Oman Livestock Company was also opened in the Wilayat of Mirbat in August 2022 within the plans of the Ministry of Agricultural Wealth, Fisheries and Water Resources to encourage the private sector to diversify investment in the field of food security and fisheries.



COMMENTARY

Art of managing re-investment risk



R. MADHUSOODANAN

Managing re-investment risk is a very important aspect of financial planning. Re-investment risk refers to the risk of re-investing the periodical coupon or interest received from an investment at a potentially lower rate of interest than they are currently receiving. This applies not only to the future cash flows but also the principal amount on maturity. The periodical coupon receipts from Government securities, corporate bonds, interest from

bank deposits, etc. can be re-invested on the date of receipt at the prevailing rate of interest . Hence, the investors are left with no option but to invest at the best available market rates. If the interest rate scenario is lower than what at the time of investment, then the investor loses money.

For example, Mr. A has made an investment in 2020 in a 10-year Corporate Bond at 10% interest, payable half yearly. The current interest rate for similar investment say above 5 years is 7%. A can invest the half-yearly coupon received only at 7% whereas the Principal amount continues to earn at 10%.

So the question is how to mitigate the potential loss on account of the likely lower rates on the future cash flows on the investments. A prudent investor needs to manage re-investment risks by proper financial planning and execution..

1. Long term investments
When one feels that the interest rates are going to soften in the medium to long term horizon, better to go for long-term investments so that the re-investment

risk for the principal portion is insulated till the maturity while the future cashflows on account coupon payments are subject to re-investment, which need to be hedged separately.

2. Non-callable securities
“Call Option” bonds, generally the corporates do a buyback after a stipulated period, but before the maturity, in the event of the lower interest rate scenario. For the investor, the principal amount received can be re-invested at the current rate which will be lower than the existing coupon of the bond. Therefore, the investor should be aware of this fact while making such investments.

3. Zero coupon Bonds
These bonds are issued at a deep discount. The face value of the bond will be paid on maturity. The interest amount will be the difference between the maturity value and the issue price. Here the coupon of the bond (not zero) will be re-invested at the original interest rate as periodical payments are not made to the investor. But one has to keep in mind the liquidity risk, default

risk and also interest in the event of an upward movement in interest.

4. Long Term Special Term Bank Deposits
Invest in Bank deposits where the interest and principal are paid on maturity. In this case, the periodical interest accrued is getting re-invested at the original rate of interest. Hence no re-investment risk when the rate of interest falls. On the contrary, if the interest goes up, the depositor has the option to prematurely close the deposit and re-deposit at a higher rate. Normally the bank charges a penalty for this, but the investor has to do a cost-benefit exercise before resorting to this option.

5. Floating Rate Bonds (FRBs)
Here the interest rates are re-set at regular intervals say half yearly. The re-pricing will be done at the current interest rates with or without a markup. Hence one need not worry about the movements in interest rates. If the interest rate outlook is positive, this type of investments are a perfect hedge.

6. Laddering
Create a Bond ladder. Under this the maturity date of the bonds are set in a staggered way so that the bonds mature on different dates. The tenor of the bonds are made like a ladder. So the re-investment also takes place at various dates at different interest rates minimizing the re-investment risk.

7. Diversified Portfolio
Include various class of fixed-income securities with different maturities in your portfolio. This will help to balance the risk associated with re-investment.

Managing future cash-flows of Retail Investors
As discussed earlier, the periodical coupon receipts or interest are re-invested as and when received at the rate applicable on the date of receipt. In the event of an upward movement in the interest rates, the re-investment risk is zero. The potential loss in the event of a lower interest rate scenario can be mitigated by resorting to certain strategies. One strategy is to open a recurring deposit(RD) with a bank for a term which should match

with the maturity of the investment. The periodic cashflows on the investment may be used for the instalments of the RD. The advantage is that the rate of interest of the RD remains constant till the maturity period irrespective of the volatility in the interest rate movements. In the event of a jump in the interest rate, the depositor can open another RD for higher rates for the remaining period of the investment by discontinuing the other one.. Any number of RDs can be opened but one has to manage . Investing the cashflows to equity oriented mutual funds through Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) is another option. There is nothing wrong in putting a small portion in a gold ETF which is also a perfect hedge. Alternatively one can have a mix of these depending on his primary goal of investment.

No doubt, investments in fixed-income securities are subject to re-investment risk. There is no one-touch solution for avoiding it. It can only be managed.

The writer is a former SBI official and financial expert

GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT BONDS

CBO announces auction results of 71th GDB Issue

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) on Sunday announced the auction results of the 71st Government Development Bonds (GDB) issue worth OMR100,000,000.

According to a media release issued by CBO's Market Operations Department, the 71st GDB Issue, which received overwhelming response from investors, has received applications that amounted to OMR226,843,000.

The average yield was 5.10 percent at an equivalent price of OMR100.000, while the highest yield was 5.12 percent at an equivalent price of OMR99.910 and the lowest was at 5.05 percent at an equivalent price of OMR100.220.

The 5-year Bond will be issued on Tuesday, 16th July 2024 and it will mature on 16th July 2029, carrying a coupon rate of 5.10 % p.a. -ONA



GAZA STRIP

Oman condemns Israeli airstrikes

MUSCAT: Oman has condemned the airstrikes carried out by the Israeli occupation forces targeting unarmed civilians in Mawasi, Khan Yunis, in the Gaza Strip, which resulted in the martyrdom and injury of hundreds of women,

children and elderly people. The Foreign Ministry on Sunday said that this constitutes a clear terrorist act and a deliberate policy of genocide practiced by the brutal Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people,

in a clear violation of international laws and conventions, in disregard to all international resolutions and demanded calling for an immediate ceasefire.Oman calling for the protection and preservation of civilians. -ONA

NBO GLOBAL EQUITY FUND
OPEN-ENDED INVESTMENT FUND



EXTENSION OF SUBSCRIPTION PERIOD

Subscription Closing Date 25th July 2024

Fund Objectives

The primary objective of the Fund is to generate returns from an actively managed portfolio comprised of equity securities listed and about to be listed on global stock exchanges including ADRs and GDRs and equity-oriented securities such as open-ended UCIT funds and ETFs investing in such listed securities.

Fund Structure

Open-ended fund investing in (i) listed and about to be listed global equity securities including ADRs and GDRs and (ii) funds such as UCIT funds and exchange traded funds (ETFs) that invest in such listed equity securities.

Initial Subscription Price

1.020 Rial Omani (including 20 Baisa as issue expenses)

Minimum Subscription for Initial Issue:

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

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

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

Investment Manager & Issue Manager



Investment Advisor



Legal Adviser



Collecting Banks



Sultanate of Oman سلطنة عُمان
وزارة التراث والسياحة
Ministry of Heritage and Tourism



Announcement of an International tender

Tender No.	125/2024/MHT/HQ-22 International Tender	Tender Name	Provision of Consultancy Services to Implement the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) Criteria
Fees of Tender Documents (Non-refundable)		300 RO	
Tender Document Sales End Date		4/8/2024	
Last Date for Bid Submission		26/8/2024	
Grade		International	
E-Tendering Portal		https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om	

International and local companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board at the level mentioned above and wishing to participate in the aforementioned tenders can obtain their documents from the E.Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>

Bids are submitted that fulfill the technical conditions and specifications, accompanied by electronic tender bond from a local or International bank registered in Oman not less than (1%) of the bid value, valid for (90) days from the date of its submission.

• The Ministry shall not be obligated to accept the lowest or any other bids.

The bid submission period starts after the end of the inquiry period shown in the e-tendering system, until the last date for submitting bids before (10:00 am, Oman time).

Support and inquiries	For more information, related to the tender, kindly communicate through the website of the e-tendering system: https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om
	For inquiries related to the technical support for the e-tendering system, kindly communicate through etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om or 24402200
For further information	
Email : sotic@mht.gov.om Phones : 22088348 - 22088085	

SAN FERMÍN FESTIVAL

Dozens injured at bull runs in Pamplona

PAMPLONA: The renowned San Fermín festival drew to a close in the northern Spanish city of Pamplona yesterday, with seven further people receiving injuries during the traditional running of the bulls.

The eight and final bull run of the festival, which begins every year on 7 July, saw seven people suffer minor injuries such as

bruises and concussions, the TV station RTVE reported.

36 runners hospitalised

In total, 36 runners were hospitalised in this year's festival.

The final bull run started at 8 am with fireworks being set off before six bulls were released into the streets, filled with thousands of spectators running towards the

bullring more than 800 metres away.

The festivities can prove fatal when runners are caught on the bulls' deadly horns. Since 1924, 16 fatalities have been recorded at the festival, with the last coming in 2009.

Most injuries during the event occur when runners collide when trying to avoid the bulls. -ONA



WHO to treat over 130 hurt in Israeli strikes

The Israeli forces killed nearly 100 Palestinians in Al Mawasi

GENEVA: Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that WHO and its partners are responding to the injuries from a series of Israeli airstrikes carried out in Al Mawasi area, near Khan Younis, south of the Gaza Strip on Saturday.

Ghebreyesus added, "134 severely injured people have been admitted to Nasser Medical Complex, which is extremely overwhelmed by the influx of patients. WHO staff are present at the hospital alongside two emergency medical teams treating the injured. We have dispatched 50 foldable beds and 50 stretchers to increase the hospital's capacity, while our pre-positioned medicines and trauma supplies are being used to save lives."

The WHO Director-General said that some of those injured



have been taken to a field hospital in Deir Al Balah, where WHO has dispatched medical and trauma care supplies to cover the urgent needs of 120 people.

The Israeli occupation forces committed a massacre in Al Mawasi, killing nearly 100 Palestinians, half of them women and children, and injuring 300 others, some of whom are in critical condition.

The Israeli occupation forces

(IOF) murdered two Palestinian civilians in a bombing that targeted the vicinity of Rafah crossing, south the Gaza Strip.

Since 7 May 2024, the Israeli entity has been controlling the Rafah crossing on the Palestinian side, amid disruption of the entry of food aid into the Strip. Rafah crossing is the main and only crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, through which aid and

individuals pass.

Since 7 October 2023, the Israeli occupation continues its extreme and unprecedented genocide on the Gaza Strip with nonstop airstrikes and bombardment shot from all sides (air, land and sea), murdering more than 38,443 Palestinian civilians, and injuring more than 88,481 others, while tens of thousands of other victims remain under the rubble. -ONA

REFUGEE CAMPS

OIC condemns Israeli carnage in Gaza Strip

JEDDAH: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has strongly condemned the gruesome carnage committed by the Israeli occupation in Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis, and Al-Shatti refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, during which the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) slaughtered hundreds of civilians and injured more others, mostly women and children.

The OIC considered this a continuation of the genocide that the Israeli occupation has been committing against Palestinian civilians in flagrant defiance of the United Nations resolutions and the injunctions of the International Court of Justice in this regard.

The OIC renewed its call on the international community, especially the Security Council, to assume its responsibility in putting an end to the Israeli military genocide that has been going on for nine months and to ensure that Israel, the occupying power, respects and implements the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

fire, with all hostages released "immediately and unconditionally," and an end to the ongoing war on the Gaza Strip since 7 October 2023.

The UN Spokesperson said that the Secretary-General is "shocked and saddened by the loss of lives" following the Israeli airstrikes that struck Al Mawasi area in the city of Khan Younis, south of the Gaza Strip, which left nearly 100 martyrs and 300 injured.

In response to journalists' questions, the Office of the Spokesperson said a statement that reports indicated that nearly 100 people were killed, including children, and hundreds of others were injured in a densely populated area "designated as a humanitarian zone sheltering displaced people." "This underscores that nowhere is safe in Gaza," the Spokesperson stressed.

"The Secretary-General condemns the killing of civilians, including women and children," he added.

The Spokesperson stressed the need to adhere to international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality, and taking precautionary measures during attacks.

-ANI

OATH CEREMONY ON MONDAY

Nepal president appoints KP Oli as Prime Minister

KATHMANDU: With the expiration of the deadline to stake the claim for the Prime Minister, Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel has appointed KP Sharma Oli (72) as the next Prime Minister.

Oli is the single leader who staked his claim for the post in support of the Nepali Congress.

Nepal President Paudel called the political parties in the Nepali parliament on Friday evening to stake a claim for the Prime Minister after Pushpa Kamal Dahal lost a confidence motion. The President had called for a claim of stake as per Article 76 (2) of the Constitution.

"Honourable President Shree Ram Chandra Paudel as per Article 76 (2) of the Constitution of Nepal has appointed member of the House of Representatives Shree KP Sharma Oli as the Prime Minister of Nepal," the President's Office said in a statement.

According to the statement, the oath ceremony for Oli has been scheduled for 11 am (NST) on Monday.

Along with Oli, a group of ministers will also be inducted into



the cabinet for which the parties are holding rounds of discussions.

Oli and Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba jointly signed an application for the President to appoint the UML chief as the new prime minister on Friday evening, right after the results of the vote of confidence.

Oli, with the backing of the Nepali Congress and smaller parties, had submitted the signatures of 165 lawmakers, claiming majority

support in the parliament for the Prime Ministership.

The Constitution of Nepal mandates a Prime Minister to cross a majority of 138 in the 275-strong House of Representatives to take over as Prime Minister. Oli became the Prime Minister for the first time in October 2015, soon after the promulgation of the constitution that year, and remained in power until August 2016. -ANI

ASDMA

91 killed in floods in Indian state of Assam

GUWAHATI: The flood situation in the Indian state of Assam has claimed 91 lives across the state, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said on Saturday.

Earlier, ASDMA said on Friday that the number of deaths in Assam floods has increased to 90. Seven more people died in the state on Friday, according to an ASDMA report.

According to the Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS), the Brahmaputra River in Neamatighat, Tezpur, and Dhubri, the Burhi Dihing tributary in Chenimari (Khowang), the Disang River in Nanglamuraghat, and the Kushiyara River in Karimganj are flowing above danger levels.

Twenty-one districts in the state have been affected, including Cachar, Nalbari, Kamrup, Golaghat, Goalpara, Morigaon, Dibrugarh, Dhubri, Nagaon, Hailakandi, Dhemaji, Majuli, Sivasagar, South Salmara, Darrang, Karimganj, Barpeta, Kamrup (M), Biswanath, Chirang, and Jorhat.

While the flood situation in the state has been improving marginally, over 12.33 lakh people are still affected by the deluge.

A total of 2,406 villages under



75 revenue circles and 32,924.32 hectares of crop area were under water.

Dhubri district is the worst affected, with 3,18,326 people impacted, followed by 1,48,609 people in Cachar, 95,277 people in Golaghat, 88,120 people in Nagaon, 83,125 people in Goalpara, 82,494 in Majuli, 73,662 people in Dhemaji, and 63,400 people in South Salmara district.

Over 2.95 lakh people are taking shelter in 316 relief camps and distribution centres in flood-affected districts. The ASDMA flood report also stated that 6,67,175 animals have been affected by the deluge.

Meanwhile, 180 wild animals,

including 10 rhinos, have died in the flood in Kaziranga National Park so far.

Sonali Ghosh, Field Director of Kaziranga National Park, said that 10 rhinos, 150 hog deer, 2 swamp deer, and several sambar deer drowned in floodwaters, while 2 hog deer died in vehicle collisions, 13 other animals died under care, and one otter pup died from other causes.

During the floods, park authorities and the forest department rescued 135 animals, including two rhino calves and two elephant calves. Thirty-five forest camps in the national park are still under water. -ANI

MILITARY PARADE

France holds Bastille Day festivities before Paris Olympics

FRANCE : France celebrates its national holiday, Bastille Day, on Sunday as the country prepares to host the Olympic Games. President Emmanuel Macron opened the traditional military parade by reviewing the troops, followed by the Marseillaise, the national anthem.

Preparations for the Games have blocked the military parade from its traditional route on the Champs Elysees, forcing a military contingent to march on the nearby Avenue Foch instead.

Due to Olympic security measures, the number of troops were reduced compared to previous years. Some 4,000 people, down from 6,500 last year, and 162

horses marched in the tightly choreographed show. No tanks or armored vehicles took part, but overhead more than 60 aircraft flew in formation, including a British Typhoon fighter alongside French Mirages and Rafales. What is special about this year's parade?

This year's parade didn't feature a foreign guest like last year's visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but it did have a very special participant: the Olympic flame. Just 12 days before the start of the Summer Games, the torch relay reached the French capital.

Colonel Thibault Vallette, of the elite Cadre Noir de Saumur cavalry school and Rio 2016 equestrian gold medalist, carried the torch. He then passed it on to a group of young athletes to carry it around the capital.



After its Bastille Day appearance, the torch relay will visit Notre Dame Cathedral, the historic Sorbonne University and the Louvre Museum. It will then move on

to other Paris landmarks on Monday. Festivities come amid political crisis due to snap vote

This year's Bastille Day celebrations offer Macron a moment of distraction from the political turmoil he unleashed with a snap election that weakened his centrist party and his presidency. The result left the country with a deadlocked parliament and no one clearly in charge.

The leftist alliance that won the most seats is struggling to agree on a candidate to replace Prime Minister Gabriel Attal, who could leave within days. There is little sign of a ruling majority emerging from parliament, which is split into

three loose camps. Meanwhile, Macron is barred by the constitution from calling new elections for a period of 12 months.

As a result, the European Union's second-largest economy, a nuclear-armed G7 power and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, is rudderless. This is a worrying situation for markets and for France's allies alike. On July 14, 1789, revolutionaries stormed the Bastille fortress and prison in Paris, marking the beginning of the French Revolution and the end of the monarchy.

The holiday is central to the French calendar, with events held throughout the country. -BW

EX-PRESIDENT DOING WELL AFTER SHOOTING

TRUMP ATTACKED



The shooting incident at former President Donald Trump's rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, on Saturday has drawn strong condemnation from several prominent leaders

WASHINGTON, DC: Former US President Donald Trump is “doing well” after the shooting at his campaign rally in Pennsylvania and looks forward to being in Milwaukee to attend the Republican convention, his campaign senior advisers Chris LaCivita and Susie Wiles said in a statement.

The convention is set to begin on Monday and Trump is scheduled to formally accept his party's nomination and deliver remarks on Thursday night. In a statement, Chris LaCivita and Susie Wiles said, “As was communicated earlier this evening, President Trump is doing well and grateful to law enforcement and first responders for their fast action.”

“President Trump looks forward to joining you all in Milwaukee as we proceed with our convention to nominate him to serve as the 47th President of the United States. As our party's nominee, President Trump will continue to share his vision to Make America Great Again,” they added.

Donald Trump was on stage at a rally in Pennsylvania's Butler before gunshots rang out and Secret Service agents stormed the stage, The Hill reported.

The Secret Service agents surrounded the Republican candidate and escorted him off the stage, with blood visible across his face. He raised his fist towards the crowd as he was escorted away by law enforcement personnel.

According to the US Secret Service's statement, one spectator was killed and another was critically injured and the incident is being investigated. The US Secret Service personnel neutralised the shooter, who is now dead.



Donald Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, expressed gratitude to the Secret Service and the other law enforcement officers for their swift action.

In a post on X, Ivanka Trump stated, “Thank you for your love and prayers for my father and for the other victims of today's senseless violence in Butler, Pennsylvania. I am grateful to the Secret Service and all the other law enforcement officers for their quick and decisive actions today. I continue to pray for our country.”

Earlier, Donald Trump, in his first account of being shot at during a rally in Pennsylvania, said that the bullet fired at him “pierced” the

upper part of his right ear.

He also thanked the US Secret Service and law enforcement for their rapid response to the shooting that just took place in Pennsylvania's Butler. He also offered condolences to the family of a person who was killed at the rally and the person who was injured.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump stated, “I want to thank The United States Secret Service, and all of Law Enforcement, for their rapid response on the shooting that just took place in Butler, Pennsylvania. Most importantly, I want to extend my condolences to the family of the person at the Rally who was killed, and also to



the family of another person that was badly injured.”

“It is incredible that such an act can take place in our Country. Nothing is known at this time about the shooter, who is now dead. I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear. I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin. Much bleeding took place, so I realized then what was happening. GOD BLESS AMERICA,” he added.

The gunfire incident, which comes months before the 2024 US presidential elections, disrupted

Trump's rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, reported CBS News. Trump was taken away in a motorcade. He held up a fist as he sat in the SUV. His motorcade departed Butler Memorial Hospital a little before 9:30 pm (local time), CBS News reported, citing two sources.

While sharing the US Secret Service's statement on X, Chief of Communications for the United States Secret Service, Anthony Guglielmi, stated, “Here is the latest information from our investigation. We are grateful to the Secret Service team and our law enforcement partners for their swift action. Our thoughts go out to the families affected by this tragedy.”

In a statement, US Secret Service stated, “During former President Trump's campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania on the evening of July 13th at approximately 6:15 p.m., at the suspected shooter fired multiple shots toward the stage from an elevated position outside of the rally venue. US Secret Service personnel neutralized the shooter, who is now deceased.”

“US Secret Service quickly responded with protective measures and the former president is safe and being evaluated. One spectator was killed, two spectators were critically injured. The incident is currently under investigation and the Secret Service has formally notified the Federal Bureau of investigation,” it added.

Speaking to CBS News, law enforcement sources said that the suspect was shooting with an AR-style rifle from 200-300 feet away. According to law enforcement sources, the gunman was on top of a shed outside the security perimeter set up by the Secret Service.

Speaking to CBS News, US Representative Mike Kelley of Pennsylvania said, “I believe a lady who was next to me was hit, other people were hit.” Kelley was standing backstage watching Trump speak.

According to CBS News, another witness, Madison Brooks, said, “I was about five feet away from him, like I was within sight distance, like I was so close, and all of a sudden I hear these four shots and everybody is screaming ‘drop,’ and you can see the blood like splatter on his face. The Secret Service just barricades him. It was just so scary.” -Agencies

13 ATTACKS

From Gerald Ford to Donald Trump: Here's the list of past attacks on US presidents and candidates

WASHINGTON, DC: A shooting at former US President Donald Trump's rally in Pennsylvania on Saturday has sparked concerns about political violence and increased awareness of past attacks and assassination attempts against presidents and candidates, CBS News reported.

There have been multiple instances of past attacks on US presidents, former presidents, and major-party presidential candidates. Direct attacks targeting US Presidents, Presidents-elect, and candidates have occurred on 15 occasions, with five causing death, CBS News reported, citing a 2008 report compiled by the Congressional Research Service.

Of the 46 individuals serving as US President, 13 have been subject to actual or attempted assassinations, the number does not mention the Pennsylvania shooting incident involving Trump. At least seven of the past nine presidents have faced assaults, attacks, or assassination attempts.

According to the Congressional Research Service report, presidents who survived attacks include Gerald R Ford (twice in 1975), Ronald W Reagan (a near-fatal shooting in 1981), Bill Clinton (when the White House was fired upon in 1994), and George W Bush



Abraham Lincoln

(when an attacker threw a grenade that did not explode towards him and the president of Georgia during an event in Tbilisi in 2005), according to CBS News report.

There have been attack attempts on US President Joe Biden and former US Presidents Barack Obama, Donald Trump and Joe Biden, the latest Congressional Research Service report said, citing the Secret Service as the source.

Two others who served as US presidents were attacked. US President-elect Franklin D Roosevelt was attacked in 1933, while US presidential candidate, Theodore Roosevelt, was targeted in 1912 when he was seeking the presidency after being out of office for nearly four years.

Two other presidential candi-



James A Garfield

dates - Robert F Kennedy, who was killed in 1968, and George C Wallace, who was seriously injured in 1972 were also victims of direct assaults, the report compiled by the Congressional Research Service said.

Four US presidents have been assassinated, including Abraham Lincoln, James A Garfield, William McKinley, and John F Kennedy. Among the 15 attacks mentioned in the report, only Lincoln was assassinated due to a broad conspiracy, according to the report. However, conspiracy theories still surround many of these events.

The Lincoln assassination was proven to be a broad conspiracy in only one incident. Although such contentions have arisen on multiple occasions.



William McKinley

Only one other incident involving more than one participant was the 1950 assault on Blair House, the temporary residence of then-US President Harry S Truman. However, no evidence regarding conspirators emerged from the subsequent investigation or prosecution.

Among the 18 attacks or assassination attempts on US presidents or presidential candidates, all but two involved firearms. All but two of the attacks, both against Gerald R Ford, were carried out by men. All but one of the 15 assaults took place in the US, according to CBS News report.

The first attack took place in 1835, when an attacker's pistol misfired against then-US President Andrew Jackson, according to the Congressional Research Ser-



John F Kennedy

vice and the attacker, Richard Lawrence, was declared insane. According to the report, the attacker said, “Jackson was preventing him from obtaining large sums of money and was ruining the country.”

The latest shooting incident involved Donald Trump's rally in Pennsylvania. Trump was on stage at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania's Butler before gunshots rang out and Secret Service agents stormed the stage. The Secret Service agents surrounded the Republican candidate and escorted him off the stage, with blood visible across his face.

He raised his fist towards the crowd as he was escorted away by law enforcement personnel. One of the rally attendees was killed, while two more were critically in-

jured, CNN reported. The gunman was also killed by US Secret Service agents. Donald Trump said that the bullet pierced the upper part of his ear.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has identified the gunman involved in the assassination attempt against Donald Trump as Thomas Matthew Crooks. It further said that an investigation is underway into the shooting incident, CNN reported.

In a statement, the FBI said, “The FBI has identified Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20 of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, as the subject involved in the assassination attempt of former President Donald Trump on July 13 in Butler, Pennsylvania.”

“This remains an active and ongoing investigation, and anyone with information that may assist with the investigation is encouraged to submit photos or videos online at FBI.gov/butler or call 1-800-CALL-FBI,” it added.

The FBI has termed the shooting at Trump an attempted assassination. FBI special agent in charge of the Pittsburgh office, Kevin Rojek, said, “This evening, we had what we're calling an assassination attempt against our former President Donald Trump. It's still an active crime scene.”

SPORTS

Alcaraz retains title

The 21-year-old Spaniard crushed Serbia's Novak Djokovic to become the youngest man to win at Wimbledon and Roland Garros in the same year

LONDON: Carlos Alcaraz powered to victory over an out-of-sorts Novak Djokovic in a bewildering final to retain his men's singles title at Wimbledon on Sunday.

A repeat of last year's showpiece, it failed to live up to the five-set thriller of 12 months ago as Djokovic appeared mostly helpless against the dominant Spaniard.

After squandering three championship points when trying to serve out the victory, Alcaraz held his arms aloft after battling through the third-set tie-break for a 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (7-4) win.

"Honestly, it is a dream for me winning this trophy," said Alcaraz.

"I did an interview when I was 11 and I said my dream is to win Wimbledon. I want it to keep going. It is a great feeling to play on this beautiful court and lift this amazing trophy. It is the most



beautiful court and trophy."

On being sixth man in open era to win the double (French Open and then Wimbledon): "Fighting, believing. I don't know. It is a huge honour for me to be a part of those players. I'm really happy to be at the same table as Novak to do it. Huge champions. I don't consider myself a champion yet. Not like them. I try to keep going and building my path, my journey."

Gracious in defeat, Djokovic shared a smile and warm embrace with Alcaraz at the net after the loss.

For a second straight year, Djokovic was attempting to equal Roger Federer's record of 8 Wimbledon titles. The 24-time major winner was also trying to move ahead of Margaret Court to take sole ownership of the all-time record for the most Grand Slam singles titles. As tradition now dictates, Al-

caraz climbed up to the players' box and was leapt upon by his team and family, celebrating a 14th consecutive match win at Wimbledon.

The result continues the four-time major winner's 100% record in Grand Slam finals, while he becomes the youngest man to win at Wimbledon and the French Open in the same year.

Alcaraz is just 21 years old. Boris Becker is the youngest ever Wimbledon winner, taking the title aged 17 and then retaining it the following year. Bjorn Borg is the only other player to have won Wimbledon twice before the age of 22. Alcaraz (21 years, 70 days) is the third-youngest player in the Open Era to win the men's singles title at Wimbledon in back-to-back editions, after Becker (18 years, 227 days, 1985-86) and Borg (21 years, 26 days, 1976-77).

'A deserved winner'

Runner-up Djokovic of Serbia paid tribute to Alcaraz. He said: "It obviously was not the result I wanted but of course in the first couple of sets the level of tennis wasn't up to par from my side. But credit to Carlos for playing elite tennis, especially from the back of the court, he had it all today. It wasn't meant to be, I tried to extend the match, but he was an absolute deserved winner today so congratulations for him."

"And to his team of course, an amazing job you guys are doing, it's a one man show on the court but it's a big team of people. Everything you've done so far, 21 years of age is incredible, so keep going, we'll see a lot of you I'm sure." - Agencies

T20I SERIES

Mukesh, Samson shine as India ease past Zimbabwe



HARARE: A fine four-wicket spell by Mukesh Kumar and half-century by Sanju Samson led India to a 42-run win over Zimbabwe in the fifth and final T20I to clinch the series 4-1 on Sunday.

Zimbabwe kept India to a par total of 167 despite a half-century from Samson, and they took the upper hand in the chase after a strong powerplay.

However, Mukesh Kumar, Washington Sundar and Shivam Dube hit back with the ball to sniff out any chance of a Zimbabwe victory, and India sealed a win to complete a splendid series turnaround in Harare after losing the opening fixture of the series.

Sunday's victory was India's fourth win in a row, all completed in comfortable fashion.

After Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza won the toss for the first time all series, he sent India in. Yashasvi Jaiswal began with two sixes off the first two balls of the match, including one off a Raza no-ball, but the opener could not maximise his start, and was bowled in the first over itself.

Abhishek Sharma's stay was brief too, Blessing Muzarabani got him caught behind. Shubman Gill followed Abhishek to the hut as he mis-hit to mid-on.

The three top-order wickets left India at 44/3 after the powerplay and forced a rebuild from No. 4 Samson and No. 5 Riyan Parag.

They batted together for 56 balls, and even though they added only 65 for the fourth wicket, they ensured India arrested a potential collapse. Parag made a 24-ball 22 before being dismissed. Samson took to get going (17 off 18 balls), but he got going as

he hit a total of four sixes and just a four before being dismissed in the deep in the 18th over for a 45-ball 58. A late flurry of runs from Rinku Singh helped India reach 167/6.

In the run chase, India were off to a fine start as pacer Mukesh Kumar clean bowled Wessly Madhevere for a duck to leave Zimbabwe at 1/1 in 0.3 overs.

Brian Bennett and Tadinawanashe Marumani hit three boundaries in Tushar Deshpande's over. However, Mukesh ended the stand, as he sent back Bennett. Zimbabwe were 15/2 in 2.3 overs. The 44-run third wicket stand between Marumani and Dion Myers ended when Sundar trapped Marumani leg-before-wicket for 27 in 24 balls.

Skipper Sikandar Raza and Myers then departed quickly as Dube got Myers' wicket for 34 in 32 balls. Dube also he ran out Raza for just eight and got the wicket of Jonathan Campbell for four runs to reduce Zimbabwe to 90/6 in 14.4 overs.

Abhishek Sharma cleaned up wicketkeeper-batter Clive Madande for just one run. Faraz Akram and Brandon Mavuta helped Zimbabwe put up some fight as they crossed the 100-run mark in 16.2 overs. In the penultimate over, Mukesh got a dangerous Faraz caught behind by Samson for 27. He also removed Richard Ngarva for a duck, to pick his fourth wicket to bowl out the hosts for 125 in 18.3 overs.

Brief scores: India 167/6 (Samson 58, Dube 26; Muzarabani 2-19) beat Zimbabwe 125 (in 18.3 overs (Myers 34, Marumani 27, Akram 27 Mukesh 4-22, Dube 2-25).

MAZOON ONLY WOMAN ATHLETE PICKED

Four athletes to represent Oman at Paris Olympics

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) has selected four athletes for the forthcoming 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

The Paris Olympics is scheduled to be held from July 26 to August 11 with over 10,500 athletes taking part.

Oman's Ali Anwar Al Balushi is the only athlete to have qualified for the Games in the 100m men's event based on his world rankings.

The other athletes confirmed to represent Oman at the Games include woman sprinter Mazoon



Al Alawi (100m), Issa Al Adawi (swimming) and Said Al Khatri (shooting).

In this edition of the Games, around 206 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) are set to compete besides the 'Individual

Neutral Athletes' and the Refugee Olympic Team.

For Mazoon, this will be the third Olympics, having competed at the Rio de Janeiro (2016) and the Tokyo 2020 Games.

Al Adawi will compete in the

100m freestyle event and this will be his second participation at the Olympics, the previous being at Tokyo 2020.

Said Al Khatri will be the other participant as he would be competing in the men's trap shooting event. This will be his maiden participation at the Summer Olympics.

Except for Al Balushi, the other three have made it to the Games based on NOC's universality quota spots. This will be Oman's 11th appearance at the Summer Olympics, the first being in 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

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TRAVEL FINANCE CAMPAIGN

The travel finance campaign from Alizz Islamic Bank helps customers enjoy their summer vacations in any country of their choice, with easy payment options that include a grace period of 2 months and availability of travel finance with post-dated cheques.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) general index (30) dropped 0.2 points, comprising a decline by 0.01% to close at 4699.99 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 4700.24 points.

Oman’s real estate deals rise by 1.3% to reach OMR1,237mn

According to preliminary statistics issued by NCSI, fees collected for legal transactions amounted to OMR27.2 million till the end of May 2024, constituting a decrease of 5.7 per cent compared to the corresponding period of 2023

MUSCAT: The value of traded property in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 1.3 per cent to OMR1,237.0 million till the end of May 2024, compared to OMR1,220.6 million in the same period of 2023, according to the latest data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

According to preliminary statistics issued by NCSI, fees collected for legal transactions amounted to OMR27.2 million till the end of May 2024, constituting a decrease of 5.7 per cent compared to the corresponding period of 2023.

The value of sale contracts fell by 2.3 per cent to OMR457.2 million till the end of May 2024, and the number of sale contracts increased by 0.7 per cent to 28,023, compared to 27,823 in the same period of 2023.

The value of mortgage contracts went up by 3.5 per cent till the end of May 2024 to OMR774.5 million compared to OMR748.4 million during the same period of 2023. Meanwhile, the number of mortgage contracts fell by 15 per cent to 8,596 contracts from 10,110 contracts in the same period of 2023.

The traded value of barter con-



tracts rose by 24.5 per cent to OMR5.2 million by the end of May 2024 compared to OMR4.2 million in the same period of 2023.

The number of barter contracts declined by 6 per cent to reach 583 contracts by the end of May 2024 compared to 620 contracts

in May 2023.

The number of properties issued by the end of May 2024 fell by 5.7 per cent to 94,194, whereas the

number of properties issued to citizens of GCC countries increased by 2.3 per cent to 528 compared to 516 till the end of May 2023. -**OMA**

REPORT



LNG’s trade increased 3.1% globally in 2023

WASHINGTON: Liquefied natural gas (LNG) trade increased 3.1% globally in 2023 to average 52.9 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d), an increase of 1.6 Bcf/d from 2022, according to a report from the International Group of Liquefied Natural Gas Importers (GHI). Expanded export and import capacity and increasing natural gas demand drove the growth in global LNG trade last year.

Published by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), the report says LNG export capacity expanded primarily in the United States, Mozambique, Russia, Indonesia, Norway, and Oman. In the United States, Freeport LNG returned to service in February 2023 after being offline since June 2022, and it was operating at full production capacity by April. Developers in both Mozambique and Russia commissioned new projects in 2022 — the 0.4-Bcf/d Coral South Floating LNG in Mozambique and the 0.2-Bcf/d Portovaya LNG in Russia — and these projects reached full production in 2023. In Indonesia, the Tangguh LNG export facility added a third train. Norway and Oman increased LNG production capacity by optimizing operational efficiency of existing LNG plants.

In 2023, the United States became the world’s largest LNG exporter, with exports increasing by 12% compared with 2022. Exports from the three largest global LNG exporters — the United States, Australia, and Qatar — accounted for 60% of all LNG exports in 2023. Algeria’s LNG exports increased 0.4 Bcf/d as additional natural gas feedstock became available from the newly commissioned production fields. Exports also increased from Norway and Australia mainly due to optimization of the export plants’ operational performance and from Indonesia after a capacity expansion at Tangguh LNG.

LNG import capacity was expanded primarily in Europe and Asia. In Europe, operators placed several new Floating Storage and Regasification Units in service and expanded regasification capacity at some existing terminals. In Asia, new capacity was added primarily in China, India, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Asian countries continued to lead the growth in LNG imports globally, with imports increasing by 3.5% (1.2 Bcf/d) in 2023. LNG imports increased by 12% (1.0 Bcf/d) in China, the most of any country in the world, making China the world’s largest LNG importer for the second year since 2021. LNG imports in India increased by 11% (0.3 Bcf/d) as new regasification terminals were placed in service and LNG prices declined. Lower LNG prices also contributed to increased imports into Thailand (by 0.4 Bcf/d), Bangladesh (0.1 Bcf/d), and Singapore (by 0.1 Bcf/d).

LNG imports in Europe increased slightly by 1.4% (0.2 Bcf/d). Imports into Germany — the newest LNG importer — averaged 0.7 Bcf/d. Imports also increased to countries that expanded regasification capacity, such as the Netherlands, Italy, and Finland. LNG imports to the United Kingdom, France, and Spain declined by a combined 1.3 Bcf/d, mainly because natural gas demand in these countries decreased.

In Latin America, LNG imports increased mainly in Colombia, by 0.1 Bcf/d. Colombia experienced drought and used LNG for natural gas-fired electric power plants to offset lower hydropower generation. In Brazil, LNG imports declined by 0.2 Bcf/d because more electricity was generated by hydropower, reducing demand for natural gas-fired electricity generation in 2023. LNG imports into Puerto Rico also increased by 0.1 Bcf/d. -**WAM**

OPAZ

Central platform for investor services launched to boost economic zones

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) has awarded the Central Platform for Investor Services Project. This project aims to provide government and operational e-services in the economic, free and industrial zones supervised by Opaz. Through the platform, investors can access all required services. This platform will be upgraded to be integrated with other national government service platforms managed by the government bodies.

This platform is a strategic step on the road to developing digital infrastructure to meet sustainable development goals and further help Oman’s economic zones and free zones be chosen as trustworthy and sustainable investment destinations.

The Planning and Information Technology Director General, Mahmoud Hamoud Al-Rawahi, explained, “This platform will serve as a single one-stop shop where investors can access all investment services.”

It will produce centralised statistics and facilitate the verification of KPIs in the areas under Opaz’s supervision. Additionally, it will enable the integration of various investor e-service channels and systems and make it simpler to connect government services to those that are in operation in the zones under Opaz’s supervision. In



addition, it will ease the process of overseeing and managing service termination, establishing protocols, and lowering the administrative and financial costs associated with setting up and maintaining several service channels. To prevent the loss of paper files and project data, it will function as an investor portfolio.

According to Al-Rawahi, “The platform will decrease the time and effort needed for services and investors will be required to repeatedly go to a one-stop shop to obtain the required data and apply for services to improve service quality as part of Opaz’s plan for digital transformation and improved investor services.”

The quality of services provided to government investors in the zones under Opaz’s supervision will be enhanced by transparent



service requirements and expedited service procedures.

It is noteworthy that Opaz has taken several actions to enhance the services provided to investors in the affiliated zones since its founding in September 2020. The creation of the Digital Transformation Committee is the most prominent of these actions.

Furthermore, the study has identified the government and operational services provided to investors in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, free zones, and industrial cities. It has also documented administrative procedures, created requirements for each service, used forms, and reviewed service fees, tariffs for business activities, and related approvals. Additionally, it has introduced an investor land selection e-service that lets investors choose

from over 800 different business activities once they choose the project type and input the necessary land acreage.

Along with granting its zones the ability to issue work permits, Opaz has also launched an investor residence visa, granting its zones the authority to issue work permits. It also created the investor call centre (toll-free number 1919) and continued its coordination with the military and civil bodies to link its system with the customs exemption system.

It has also categorised and documented its services offered through the government e-services assessment system (Oman digital portal). It has also worked with the Directorate General of Customs to develop the requirements for the import and export of dual-use goods and other products.

INDIAN PM MODI

‘Aim to make Mumbai fintech capital of world’

MUMBAI: Noting that Maharashtra has a glorious history besides the power of agriculture, industry and the finance sector, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that he aims to use “the power of Maharashtra to transform it into an economic powerhouse of the world and make Mumbai the fintech capital of the world”.

The PM, who laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple projects worth more than Rs 29,400 crore in Mumbai, also took a veiled jibe at opposition parties who have been criticising the government over “unemployment” and said according to a recent RBI report on employment, around eight crore new jobs have been created in just three-four years.

Addressing the gathering, PM Modi emphasised the need for

skilling youth and creating employment in the country.

“Skill development and employment in large numbers are India’s needs of the hour. Our government is continuously working in this direction. Despite a pandemic like COVID-19, record numbers of jobs have been created. According to a recent RBI report on employment, around 8 crore new jobs have been created in just three-four years,” he said.

“These figures have silenced those who spread false narratives regarding employment. These people are enemies of investment and infrastructure development in the country. Their policies aim to undermine the trust and employment opportunities for youth. Now, their true intentions are being revealed after these reports,” he added.

PM Modi unveiled multiple pro-

jects related to the road, railways and ports sector in Maharashtra.

“Maharashtra has a glorious history, Maharashtra has a strong present and Maharashtra has dreams of a prosperous future. Maharashtra is a state which has a very big role in building a developed India. Maharashtra has the power of industry, Maharashtra has the power of agriculture, Maharashtra has the power of the finance sector. This power has made Mumbai the financial hub of the country. Now my goal is to use this power of Maharashtra to make Maharashtra the biggest economic powerhouse of the world. My goal is to make Mumbai the fintech capital of the world,” he said.

“People know that it is the NDA government that can give stability and durability. After taking oath for the third time, I had said that

the NDA government will work at thrice the speed,” he added.

Skill development project

PM Modi also spoke about a huge skill development project for the youth of Maharashtra which will further boost employment opportunities in the state.

The Prime Minister mentioned Vadhaven port which was recently approved by the central government. “The 76,000-crore rupees project will create more than 10 lakh jobs,” he said.

Touching upon the investor mood in Mumbai in the last one month, the Prime Minister said that both small and big investors have enthusiastically welcomed the third term of the BJP-led NDA government. He noted that a stable government will work with triple speed in its third term. -**ANI**

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

The trading value yesterday stood at OMR1,151,935, comprising a drop by 1.4 per cent, compared to the last session, which stood at OMR1,168,581



MUSCAT: Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) general index (30) yesterday dropped 0.2 points, comprising a decline by 0.01 per cent to close at 4699.99 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 4700.24 points. The trading value yesterday stood at OMR1,151,935, comprising a drop by 1.4 per cent, compared to the last session, which stood at OMR1,168,581. The report released by MSX

pointed out that the market value went up by 0.005 per cent to reach about OMR24.37 billion. The report added that the value of shares bought by non-Omani investors reached OMR84,000, comprising 7.33 per cent. The value of shares sold by non-Omani investors reached OMR19,000, comprising 1.62 per cent. The net non-Omani investment increased by 5.71% to OMR66,000. — **ONA**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,704.26	4,689.77	4,699.99	4,700.24	-0.24	-0.01	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,654.70	7,629.39	7,647.24	7,645.56	1.68	0.02	
Industry Index	5,993.58	5,883.03	5,883.03	5,986.96	-103.93	-1.74	
Services Index	1,828.54	1,815.33	1,817.86	1,816.80	1.07	0.06	
MSX Shariah Index	453.98	452.55	452.86	454.05	-1.19	-0.26	
MSX TRI INDEX	6,534.69	6,514.56	6,528.76	6,529.10	-0.34	-0.01	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,696.53	8,667.77	8,688.05	8,686.14	1.91	0.02	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,915.16	6,787.62	6,787.62	6,907.53	-119.91	-1.74	
SERVICES TR IDX	2,120.56	2,105.24	2,108.18	2,106.94	1.24	0.06	
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
6,628,201.....	1,151,935.....	549.....	24,374,299,654.....	12.....	13.....	26.....	51.....

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, JULY 14

BN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	BID DIFF	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	10,000	2,588	3	0.258	0.260	0.258	0.260	0.250	0.010	-4.000	0.260	0.245	-0.260	0.100	18,301,400
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	175,185	14,606	11	0.082	0.084	0.082	0.084	0.082	0.002	-2.439	0.084	0.081	-0.083	0.100	10,237,500
OM0000004735	SEMBOORP SALALAH	410,700	42,514	11	0.103	0.106	0.103	0.103	0.101	0.002	-1.980	0.103	0.103	-0.105	0.100	98,320,911
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	190,309	192,459	23	1.008	1.017	1.008	1.017	1.005	0.012	1.194	1.017	1.014	-1.017	0.100	762,750,000
OM0000003284	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	71,616	25,820	5	0.363	0.363	0.363	0.360	0.360	0.003	-0.833	0.361	0.363	-0.351	0.100	35,880,818
OM0000008072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	791,655	111,856	104	0.141	0.142	0.141	0.142	0.141	0.001	-0.709	0.141	0.141	-0.141	0.100	614,948,597
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	10,000	2,450	2	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.000	0.000	0.245	0.230	-0.248	0.100	24,500,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	5,826	1,984	5	0.344	0.344	0.340	0.344	0.344	0.000	0.000	0.344	0.341	-0.344	0.100	229,917,707
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	827	323	1	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.000	0.000	0.390	0.390	-0.425	0.100	129,040,357
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	578,466	145,773	54	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.000	0.000	0.252	0.249	-0.252	0.100	1,891,612,060
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	33,000	2,465	2	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.074	-0.074	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	943,080	130,371	24	0.139	0.139	0.138	0.139	0.139	0.000	0.000	0.139	0.138	-0.139	0.100	775,237,232
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	6,190	482	1	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.078	-0.080	0.100	13,650,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	263,645	21,273	22	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.074	-0.075	0.100	50,614,557
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	207,930	61,206	30	0.295	0.295	0.294	0.295	0.295	0.000	0.000	0.294	0.294	-0.294	0.100	227,209,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	289,452	83,109	25	0.289	0.289	0.286	0.287	0.289	-0.002	-0.692	0.287	0.286	-0.287	0.100	186,820,994
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	43,159	11,949	6	0.280	0.280	0.275	0.275	0.280	-0.005	-1.786	0.275	0.275	-0.282	0.100	34,346,939
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	160	128	2	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.818	-0.018	-2.200	0.800	0.800	-0.825	0.100	76,000,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	938,025	70,690	35	0.076	0.076	0.075	0.075	0.077	-0.002	-2.597	0.075	0.075	-0.083	0.100	53,580,476
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	265,311	45,844	34	0.178	0.178	0.171	0.171	0.190	-0.019	-10.000	0.171	0.171	-0.171	0.100	37,620,000
Total	20	5,254,506	968,070	400												

Parallel Market																
OM0000003281	TAAQEER FINANCE	7,138	764	2	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.101	0.006	-5.941	0.107	0.104	-0.110	0.100	29,006,683
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,500	479	1	0.319	0.319	0.319	0.319	0.315	0.004	-1.270	0.319	0.310	-0.315	0.100	25,967,477
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	30,039	3,130	7	0.104	0.112	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.001	-0.980	0.103	0.101	-0.103	0.100	8,755,000
OM0000003280	OMAN ARAB BANK	20,550	2,878	4	0.140	0.141	0.140	0.141	0.140	0.001	-0.714	0.141	0.130	-0.149	0.100	235,386,810
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	5,110	820	3	0.160	0.161	0.160	0.161	0.160	0.001	-0.625	0.161	0.161	-0.161	0.100	35,880,818
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	2,600	364	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.140	-0.144	0.100	4,200,000
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	25,000	1,275	1	0.051	0.051	0.052	0.052	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.051	-0.051	0.100	3,250,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	94,500	4,442	5	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.043	-0.051	0.100	14,435,877
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	12,150	943	3	0.077	0.078	0.077	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.072	-0.078	0.100	16,550,040
OM0000002036	OMAN THREAD MILLS	1,000	98	1	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.090	-0.090	0.100	1,606,622
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	208,317	31,248	5	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.148	-0.162	0.100	352,448,620
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	1,456	697	1	0.479	0.479	0.479	0.479	0.479	0.000	0.000	0.479	0.400	-0.479	0.100	34,252,735
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	1,700	153	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.090	-0.093	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000008447	OMAN RET FUND	33,650	2,122	8	0.064	0.064	0.063	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.000	0.064	0.063	-0.064	0.100	31,413,529
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	1,900	99	1	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.099	-0.100	0.100	17,228,000
OM0000002228	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	11,310	2,591	2	0.230	0.230	0.229	0.229	0.230	-0.001	-0.435	0.229	0.225	-0.250	0.100	14,015,779
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	65,027	6,764	7	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.104	0.105	-0.001	-0.952	0.104	0.104	-0.100	0.100	332,643,115
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	83,535	18,890	14	0.228	0.230	0.224	0.226	0.228	-0.003	-1.310	0.226	0.223	-0.226	0.100	10,343,070
OM0000001982	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	38,567	2,083	7	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.055	-0.001	-1.818	0.054	0.054	-0.054	0.100	4,590,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	35,000	2,530	4	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.074	-0.002	-2.703	0.072	0.073	-0.072	0.100	11,199,629
OM0000005683	PHOENIX POWER	575,791	35,206	41	0.062	0.062	0.060	0.060	0.062	-0.002	-3.226	0.061	0.062	-0.061	0.100	87,756,088
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	11,250	4,838	2	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.460	-0.030	-6.522	0.430	0.430	-0.430	0.100	67,725,000
Total	22	1,266,190	122,401	120												

Significant growth in air travel in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH: The General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) released air-traffic statistics showing significant growth in the number of passengers and flights during the first half of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. According to the statistics, there was a 17% increase in the number of passengers over the past six

months, reaching approximately 62 million passengers, compared to 53 million passengers during the same period last year. The number of flights also reached approximately 446,000, marking a 12% increase compared to the same period last year, which saw 399,000 flights. Additionally, the airfreight volume in the first six

months of 2024 witnessed a 41% increase, reaching 606,000 tons compared to the 430,000 tons in the same period of 2023. **Development projects** During the first half of this year, GACA launched several development projects, including the development and expansion of Prince

Mohammad bin Abdulaziz International Airport, the inauguration of the development and expansion of Al-Ahsa International Airport, the launch of the new additional international departure terminal at Taif International Airport, and the introduction of the self-driving air taxi experience for the first time during the Haj season. — **SPA**

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ENHANCING SKILLS

OQ8 empowers Oman's future workforce with UK Summer Leadership Programme

MUSCAT: Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries Company (OQ8) has announced the launch of the 5th edition of its Summer Leadership Programme in the United Kingdom. With an ambition to empower Oman's future workforce, the program aims to inspire students' leadership with special skills development. This year, 22 outstanding students from the Al Wusta and surrounding regions have been chosen to embark on this transformative journey on July 7. OQ8's ambitious programme, held in partnership with the Ministry of Education and in collaboration with the prestigious Oxford University and Takatuf Oman, aims to empower and inspire Omani youth for the future workforce. The main objective of the programme is to enhance their skills and broaden their cultural horizons, preparing them to meet the demands of the future. Jasim Al Ajmi, Vice President of Corporate Affairs at OQ8, stated, "We are committed to creating a positive impact on the lives of young people from the Al Wusta community and Oman at large. The OQ8 Summer Leadership Programme is one of our most successful and impactful initiatives to date. "It provides students with the opportunity to improve their leadership skills and fosters personal growth and cultural understanding. Our holistic approach ensures that these outstanding students not only excel academically but also develop the necessary life skills to be self-reliant and independent in the future." The OQ8 Summer Leadership Programme offers a comprehensive one-month curriculum that includes intensive English language courses, leadership skills development, and cultural immersion activities. The students will also visit historical and cultural attractions in the UK, facilitating their understanding of



new cultures and enhancing their global awareness. To prepare the students for this enriching experience, a one-week induction program was conducted in Muscat. This induction familiarised the students with British culture and provided guidance on how to maximise the benefits of the courses offered in the UK. "The OQ8 Summer Leadership Programme in Oxford, UK, continues its successful run, sponsored by OQ8 and implemented by Takatuf Oman," said Dawood bin Suleiman Al-Shabibi, Head of International Relations Department at The Ministry of Education. "Based on specific criteria, The Ministry of Education selected outstanding tenth-grade students from different governorates. After announcing the final list of accepted students, the Ministry ensured smooth implementation by accompanying the students and overseeing all necessary procedures. "The programme concluded with a detailed analysis and report on its results and impact on the participants." "We extend our heartfelt gratitude to OQ8 for its generous sponsorship. Contributions like these, driven by social responsibility, have a positive impact on our youth, preparing them to be future leaders," he added. Since its inception in 2017, the OQ8 Summer Leadership Programme has grown significantly, marking a milestone in the company's social investment initia-

tives. Initially comprising only 10 male students from Al Wusta, the program expanded in 2018 to include 20 students, 10 males and 10 females, from the same region. By 2019, the programme expanded to include 30 students from Al Wusta and other governorates across the Sultanate. Subsequent editions enrolled 20 students in 2023 and 22 students



Persistent social isolation, loneliness may accelerate cognitive

decline



CHINESE RESEARCHERS have discovered that persistent social isolation or feelings of loneliness may accelerate cognitive decline and lead to higher cognitive impairment risk.

Researchers from Southern Medical University and the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention studied the associations of changes in social isolation, loneliness, or both, with cognitive function among older adults.

Data from 7,299 older adults were analyzed, and four change patterns for social isolation and loneliness were identified: no change, incident, transient, and persistent.

Researchers discovered that incident, transient, and persistent social isolation, along with persistent loneliness, were associated with accelerated cognitive decline and an increased risk of cognitive impairment.

Short-term or persistent social isolation with concurrent loneliness has accelerated cognitive decline and increased the risk of cognitive impairment.

Social isolation is defined as the objective absence of social contact and a diminished social network. In contrast, loneliness represents a subjective assessment of how individuals find satisfaction in their social connections. -**OWA**

SPORTS

Uruguay finish third after shootout win over Canada

Luiz Suarez's dramatic injury-time equaliser forced the game into a penalty shootout, which Uruguay won 4-3

NORTH CAROLINA: Following Luis Suarez's dramatic injury-time equaliser, Uruguay finished third at the Copa America 2024 after a 4-3 penalty shootout victory over Canada on Sunday at the Bank of America Stadium.

The match went to penalties after it had ended 2-2 in normal time. Uruguay's goalkeeper, Sergio Rochet, performed exceedingly well during the penalty shootout.

He stopped a poor spot-kick from Canada's Ismael Kone, and Alphonso Davies' attempt hit the crossbar, allowing Uruguay to win the shootout 4-3.

Uruguay looked geared up for a stunning defeat when Jonathan David gave Canada a 2-1 lead in the 80th minute.

However, former Barcelona and



Liverpool striker Luis Suarez, who came on as a second-half replacement, saved the game for Uruguay.

In the second minute of injury time, he scored with a clean finish from a Jose Gimenez cross, levelling the game at 2-2 and forcing a penalty shootout.

In the shootout, Uruguay goalkeeper Sergio Rochet stopped Canada midfielder Ismael Kone's penalty attempt. Alphonso Davies then attempted a panenka, but the ball struck the crossbar and bounced out, result-

ing in Uruguay's triumph.

The defeat represented a dismal finale to the campaign for Canada, which had been on track for a historic and well-deserved triumph before Suarez's late equaliser.

Uruguay had an ideal start, with Tottenham midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur putting them ahead after only eight minutes.

Sebastian Caceres outjumped his man and knocked down the ball for Bentancur, who spun and turned before firing into the roof of the goal.

Uruguay almost extended their advantage immediately after a sweeping counter-attack that left Canada's defence reeling. Maximiliano Araujo's attempt was stopped by Dayne St. Clair.

The miss proved costly, as Canada equalised minutes later with a spectacular improvised finish by Kone in the 22nd minute.

Moises Bombito headed into Jacob Shaffelburg's corner, and Kone lobbed the oncoming Rochet with a clever flip to level the score.

Uruguay believed they had re-



claimed the lead almost immediately when Facundo Pellistri scored in the 23rd minute, but the goal was disallowed due to offside in the buildup.

With victory in sight, Canada chose to rush forward rather than protect their lead, eventually paying the price as Uruguay broke through their defence to set Suarez's equaliser.

Uruguay's determination and Suarez's timely intervention meant that they ended the tournament on a positive note, taking third place in the Copa America 2024.

Uruguay boss Marcelo Bielsa felt his side "barely deserved" to

make it to the shootout and felt they underperformed in the tournament as a whole.

"I thought that given our roster, we could have played a bit better than what we showed," he said.

Canada boss Jesse Marsch praised the overall performance of his side as they used the tournament as a stepping stone to the 2026 World Cup which they are co-hosting with the United States and Mexico.

Marsch added: "We're still a young team. It's not so easy to build a tactical model with such short time and under such big stresses against such good opponents." - Agencies

IPL

Ponting and Delhi Capitals part ways



NEW DELHI: Ricky Ponting will no longer coach the Delhi Capitals (DC), bringing his seven-year association with the franchise to an end before the mega auction ahead of IPL 2025. It is understood that with DC failing to achieve desired results, the owners decided to move on and look for a new head coach.

Ponting took over as DC's head coach in 2018, when the team was called Delhi Daredevils, and has been part of their previous seven IPL seasons. They finished last in the league in his first season as coach but then qualified for the playoffs in 2019, 2020 and 2021. In 2020, DC made the IPL finals for the first time, where they came runners-up to Mumbai Indians. However, they did not qualify for the playoffs in any of the last three years and finished sixth in IPL 2024, winning and losing seven games each in the season.

"As you move on as our head coach, we're finding it incredibly hard to put this down in words," DC said in a post on social media.

"The four things you told us

about in every huddle - care, commitment, attitude and effort - they sum up our seven summers together. Seven summers of you being hands-on, but also hands-off, so that we could become better. As athletes, yes, but more importantly, as human beings. Seven summers of you reaching every training session first, and leaving last. Seven summers of you sprinting out of the dugout during strategic timeouts, and biting your nails off until there were none left.

"Seven summers of your dressing room speeches - the speeches, Oh! (Separate post for that loading) Seven summers of your hugs, shoulder pats and fist pumps for us all - newcomer, superstar... and everyone in-between. Thank you for everything, Coach! Like, you often close out. Let's leave this here mate, grab a beer, get back to work tomorrow, yeah?"

The remaining DC coaching staff comprises director of cricket Sourav Ganguly, assistant coach Pravin Amre, bowling coach James Hopes, and fielding coach Biju George. - Agencies

TO MEET LEBANON IN TRWC OPENER ON TUESDAY

Oman play first international touch rugby match ahead of World Cup

MUSCAT: July 14, Sunday, will go down in the history of Oman sports as a historic day when the national touch rugby team played their first international match against the Philippines in a friendly in Nottingham, UK.

Up against the top ranked team, Oman, who are not ranked, fought well before going down 1-7. The national team is all set to make its historic debut at the Touch Rugby World Cup (TRWC), which will be played from July 15-21. The team arrived in London on Saturday for the World Cup that will feature 40 countries and 180 teams.

Oman, captained by Haitham Al Harthy, have been placed along Lebanon, France, Scotland, Australia, Hong Kong, England, United States, and Papua New Guinea in men's open Group A. The tournament will be played in a single round-robin format.

Oman meet Lebanon in World Cup opener on July 16, Tuesday, and then take on France later in the day. They meet Scotland on July 17 and then play a double-header the next day against Australia and Hong Kong respectively.

On July 19, they meet hosts England in the morning followed by an afternoon match against United States. Oman conclude their group engagements on July 20 with a match against Papua New Guinea.



Nabil Al Busaidi, Oman Rugby Chairman said: "This is a historic participation of Oman at the World Cup. We are proud to compete at this level. We have worked hard to prepare for this event."

The team had preparatory camp in Abu Dhabi and Dubai and also held domestic camps ahead of the World Cup.

"We are proud to be the only Gulf team participating at the World Cup and it definitely is a matter of pride," he added.

This is the maiden participation of national team at the Touch Rugby World Cup. The qualification is a testament to the efforts made by Oman Rugby over the past few years.

The success reflects years of hard work, dedication, and strategic planning within the country's rugby infrastructure.

The players, coaching staff, and all those involved in nurturing the sport in Oman are now reaping the rewards of their tireless efforts with the maiden participation at the World Cup.

FIA WORLD ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Oman's Al Harthy misses Hyperpole by a whisker at Interlagos debut

MUSCAT: Omani racing driver Ahmad Al Harthy will begin the fifth round of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) on Sunday at the Interlagos Circuit in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from the sixth row of the LMGT3 class grid, having been achingly close to progressing into the all-important Hyperpole session - missing out by a mere 0.1 seconds on Saturday.

Marking his first ever visit to the Interlagos Circuit, Al Harthy got down to work during the opening free practice sessions on Friday and after a third practice period on Saturday, he had the task of qualifying the Team WRT-run No.46 BMW M4.

Posting the sixth fastest time in LMGT3 on his first flying lap of Saturday afternoon's session, Al Harthy then improved to fifth the next time around as times start-



ed to tumble around the famous 4.3-kilometre track.

Continuing to shave time off his previous best, into the closing stages of the session the Omani was 0.9 seconds away from the quickest of all but then found another two tenths of a second on his

final lap to be right on the cusp of progression into the top-10 Hyperpole shoot-out. In the end, though, he just missed out by little more than 0.1 seconds with a fastest time of 1m36.163 seconds (250.18 km/h), meaning 12th on the grid for the Rolex 6 Hours of Sao Paulo

in the car he shares with star teammates Maxime Martin and Valentino Rossi.

After two FIA WEC races which haven't borne fruit for the No.46 squad, in Belgium and France, the aim for the six-hour contest in Brazil is to deliver consistency - and

hopefully enjoy Team WRT's usual reliability as well - in order to capture some much-needed points in the LMGT3 Championship.

Al Harthy, backed as always by his prestigious partners OQ, Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, Omantel and BMW



Oman supported Al Harthy, goes into today's encounter ninth in the LMGT3 standings with Martin and Rossi - only six points away from the top four.

Speaking after the Hyperpole, Al Harthy said: "It was a tough qualifying to be honest. We always want to get into Hyperpole but, unfortunately, with a very short lap the gaps between everyone were very tight and we didn't have the pace to get through. Hopefully we will have a strong race, we've worked hard on the set-up as we always do and we're all looking forward to it."

"It will be a long six-hour race. As I mentioned with the lap being short, and with such a huge grid of cars, there is going to be a lot of action for sure. We need to run our own race, stick to our plan and then hopefully we can come through to a strong finish and good result."

ROUND-UP

The Club by Fanar: Hawana Salalah’s newest luxury hotel opens its doors



The Club by Fanar boasts 123 elegantly furnished rooms

SALALAH: Orascom Hotels Management announced the opening of The Club by Fanar Hotel, the latest addition to the prestigious Hawana Salalah destination. As the newest five-star luxury hotel in Salalah, The Club by Fanar is set to redefine opulence and premium service in the region.

Designed to provide an unparalleled luxury experience, The Club by Fanar boasts 123 elegantly furnished rooms, each exuding sophistication and comfort. Guests can indulge in the hotel's infinity pool, savour exquisite cuisine at Waves Restaurant, and unwind with refreshing drinks at the pool.

Every detail has been meticulously crafted to ensure a memorable stay for our esteemed guests.

Special discount
In celebration of our opening, we are delighted to offer a special discount on room rates and complimentary access to Hawana Aqua

Park for all guests staying with us during the Khareef season. This exclusive offer is our way of welcoming you to experience the epitome of luxury and relaxation at The Club by Fanar. Orascom Hotels Management, renowned for its world-class destinations, is excited to bring this

new gem to Oman. With properties spanning the globe, Orascom continues to set the standard for excellence in hospitality. For bookings, please call +968 2327 5748, email hotels.reservations@hawanasalalah.com or visit www.hawanasalalah.com/stay

SHARIA COMPLIANT



Alizz Islamic Bank continues its travel finance campaign

MUSCAT: The travel finance campaign from Alizz Islamic Bank helps customers enjoy their summer vacations in any country of their choice, with easy payment options that include a grace period of 2 months and availability of travel finance with post-dated cheques (PDCs). The offer continues until August 29.

The travel finance offer is open to Omanis and resident expatriates, subject to simple documentation and facilitated procedures and approvals, and covers 100% of the service value.

It is available at a competitive financing profit rate with a maximum payment period of 2 years and is available to salaried and non-salaried customers of the bank with a maximum finance amount of 10,000 OMR.

Speaking about the summer travel finance campaign, Mr. Saif Al Yahyai, Head of Retail Banking at Alizz Islamic Bank said "At Alizz Islamic Bank we always ensure that we work on providing our customers with the solutions that meet their needs. The summer travel finance campaign was designed to meet the needs of our customers and their families during the summer holidays and our team has worked diligently to make Alizz Islamic Bank the first option for those seeking Sharia compliant banking solutions."

The travel finance offer is open to Omanis and resident expatriates subject to simple documentation

Travel Finance is based on the Sharia principle of 'Service Ijarah' which is approved by the Sharia Supervisory Board (SSB). To enjoy this offer, the customer has to just visit any travel agency and request for a quotation which he/she has to hand over to any of the bank's branch and the finance application will be completed swiftly.

Alizz Islamic Bank is proud to give its customers Sharia-compliant personal finance 'Service Ijarah' to enhance their life and help them reach their goals.

It is designed to help them meet their needs, be it travel, medical expenses, school fees, wedding expenses or any other services, at the most competitive price. With 'Service Ijarah', the bank will have an 'agreement' with the service provider, whereby the bank leases the services required by the customer directly from the service provider and sub-leases it to the customer.

TO ENHANCE GOVERNMENT SECTOR PERFORMANCE

Royal Academy of Management launches Elmam programme for new employees in government sector

MUSCAT: To promote sustainable development by nurturing local expertise, the Royal Academy of Management has launched the Elmam programme.

This initiative is designed to equip New employees in the government sector with essential skills and knowledge, enhancing efficiency and effectiveness. Developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Ejada Development as an educational partner, the programme aims to cultivate qualified national talents adept at transferring and applying knowledge effectively.

Dr. Fathiya Abdullah Al Rashdi, Vice President for Programme Affairs at the Royal Academy of Management, emphasised that the Elmam programme for eligible new government employees is pivotal to the Academy's comprehensive initiatives. This initiative reflects His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq's profound commitment to nurturing and empowering Omani cadres. The Academy remains committed to integrating modern knowledge, tools, and technologies into Oman's social and economic advancement, aiming to enhance operational efficiency, productivity, and transparency across all sectors.

Dr. Fathiya further emphasised that the programme takes participants on a rich journey that builds national leadership capabilities with renewed thinking, enabling them to adapt to continuous and accelerating change.

It also contributes to shaping the future development map of the Sultanate of Oman.

200 employees who recently joined Government institutions, with less than one year of practical experience, will participate in the programme.

Divided into five cohorts, they will engage with comprehensive content covering ethics, the fundamentals of government work, innovation, digital transformation, modern government management, and national trends. The goal is to prepare these



employees with the knowledge and skills necessary to enhance functional and administrative performance in the government sector.

The five-day programme consists of five main themes, primarily covering national trends, Oman Vision 2040, and national programmes. It emphasises work ethics and fundamentals such as

leadership, critical thinking, the code of conduct, and improving work quality and efficiency. Additionally, the programme focuses on self-development and continuous learning skills. Innovation and creativity are essential for achieving strategic goals, along with self-marketing, institutional loyalty, integration between institutions,

teamwork, communication, and effective interaction with various leaders both inside and outside the institution. Finally, the programme delves into modern government management, focusing on artificial intelligence, digital transformation, cybersecurity, performance indicators, goal setting, and institutional innovation.

ROUND-UP

GAC unveils enticing offers on Mitsubishi ASX and Xpander

These models combine versatility, advanced features, and Mitsubishi’s renowned reliability, making them ideal choices for families and adventure enthusiasts alike



MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the authorised distributor of Mitsubishi Motors in Oman, announced an unbeatable price on two of its popular models, the spacious 7-seater Xpander and Sub-Compact SUV ASX. This special price is valid only till vehicle stocks last, presenting a unique opportunity to experience the com-

fort, style, and adventure that Mitsubishi vehicles are renowned for.

Stylish Xpander

The Mitsubishi Xpander offers a blend of comfort and versatility, making it the perfect vehicle for families and those seeking a touch of sophistication. This spacious 7-seater boasts multiple seating

configurations, ensuring a comfortable journey for all passengers. Features such as rear AC vents, an 8-inch Digital Gauge Cluster, and Smart-Link Display Audio enhance convenience and entertainment on the move.

Packed with family-friendly features, the Xpander starts at just RO 6,995 including VAT and comes

with a comprehensive 6-year unlimited kilometers warranty for complete peace of mind.

Sporty and dynamic ASX

Designed for enthusiasts who crave adventure, the Mitsubishi ASX offers exceptional performance and style. Equipped with Electronically Controlled 4WD

and a powerful 2.0L MIVEC engine, the ASX delivers thrilling performance on both city streets and rugged terrains. LED headlamps with LED DRLs, Rear view Camera and an 8-inch touchscreen with Smart Display Audio enhance convenience and safety.

The ASX is available at a starting price of RO 7,995, including

VAT and, like the Xpander, boasts a 6-year unlimited kilometres warranty, ensuring reliability and confidence for every journey.

Commenting on the exciting new offers, Manoj Ranade, General Manager of General Automotive Company, said, “We are thrilled to bring these exceptional deals on the Mitsubishi Xpander and ASX to our customers in Oman. These models combine versatility, advanced features, and Mitsubishi’s renowned reliability, making them ideal choices for families and adventure enthusiasts alike.

“With attractive starting prices and comprehensive warranties, they make a compelling choice for anyone looking to buy a vehicle in Oman. There’s no better time to discover the Mitsubishi Motors advantage than now, as these offers are available only until stocks last,” he added.

GAC invites patrons and prospective customers to visit their nearest Mitsubishi Motors Oman showroom in Azaiba, Mabelah, Barka, Sohar, Nizwa, Ibbi, Sur, Jalan Bani Buali and Salalah to experience the Xpander and ASX firsthand. The incredible deals won’t last long.



Bank Muscat organises seminar for Najahi Business Banking customers in Salalah

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, organised a seminar for entrepreneurs titled ‘Marketing Your Business in a Rapidly Changing World’ presented by Hashar Al Mandhari, CEO, Alamah Marketing. The seminar was attended by a number of Bank Muscat officials and Najahi Business Banking customers in Dhofar Governorate.

On this occasion, Taya Eid Bait Sabee, Deputy General Manager Interior Regions, Bank Muscat, said: “We are pleased to see the continuous efforts made to enhance the Bank’s pioneering role by working to implement various initiatives to support this sector. Such initiatives aim to achieve long-term results in enhancing inclusion and financial awareness, developing SMEs, and empowering youth. Bank Muscat is committed to continue supporting this sector by providing the best possible services, facilities, advisory and training programmes and initiatives.

“I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Bank’s valued customers for their continuous trust in the programmes and services designed for SMEs.”

During the event, Hashar Al Mandhari, CEO, Alamah Mar-

keting, delivered a workshop titled “Marketing Your Business in a Rapidly Changing World”. It covered a variety of themes, including the concept of marketing and its significance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the prospects for SMEs in the digital sphere, and the significance of digital applications and the utilisation of marketing trends for these businesses. Additionally, He provided a few instances of small businesses that saw success in digital marketing.

Bank Muscat realises the importance of SMEs and works to enhance its role in supporting the sector. One step taken in this regard is the inauguration of Najahi Business Banking in 2014 to support micro businesses by providing a suite of financing options. The products and services provided are designed to help these enterprises grow and thrive in their business, thus creating a positive impact on the community.

By providing tailor-made financial and non-financial solutions as well as handholding small businesses in their entrepreneurial journey, Bank Muscat’s Najahi Business Banking is helping many Omani nationals, especially the youth, to establish themselves as a strong economic force that contributes substantially to the economy.

Travel safe with BankDhofar’s travel insurance

MUSCAT: BankDhofar announced a strategic collaboration with Dhofar Insurance to introduce a comprehensive travel insurance policy designed to provide travelers with peace of mind and robust coverage during their journeys.

With a promise of instant issuance this product is introduced to meet the increased demand during the travel season and is a reflection of the bank’s commitment to offer customer-centric solutions.

The travel insurance policy offers a wide range of benefits to ensure customers are well-protected while travelling, such as: Emergency Medical Evacuation, with up to \$1 million coverage for emer-



gency medical evacuations, ensuring that travelers receive immediate and appropriate care in critical situations. Loss of Passport, as the travel insurance provides a cover-

age of up to \$300 to assist in the replacement of a lost passport, reducing the inconvenience and stress associated with such incidents. Medical Expenses during Hospitalization; with up to \$1 million coverage for medical expenses incurred during hospitalization, providing financial support for unexpected medical emergencies abroad. Also the insurance offers trip cancellation service with a coverage of up to \$2,000 per flight for trip cancellations, offering compensation for non-refundable expenses in case of unforeseen circumstances.

This travel insurance policy is available to all BankDhofar’s cus-

tomers, providing them with an added layer of security and convenience. Whether traveling for business or leisure, our customers can now enjoy their trips with the assurance that they are covered in case of emergencies or disruptions.

With a steadfast focus on technological advancements and customer empowerment, BankDhofar continues to lead the way in transforming Oman’s banking sector.

BankDhofar national wide network currently consists of 124 branches including Dhofar Islamic. The network also includes more than 360 (ATMs – CDMs – FFM’s – MFKs) for BankDhofar and Dhofar Islamic.

Attractive summer promotion on Lincoln



MUSCAT: Indulge in the exquisite timeless elegance and refined craftsmanship of Lincoln’s premium SUV range.

Experience Lincoln’s latest summer promotion with additional service and registration incentives across Lincoln models. New Lincoln owners can now benefit from upgraded service of up to 100,000km and free first-year registration. The offer is valid from 2nd June to 1st August 2024. Head to the Lincoln dealership in Muscat (Wattayah) to experience outstanding designs and performance-oriented vehicles.

Owning a Lincoln is a premium-power experience. The new offer entitles customers to additional service benefits and a registration fee waiver for the first year. A Lincoln representative commented, “We aim to enhance the luxurious ownership experience. Customers can benefit from our exclusive after-sale service and state-of-the-art service facilities by trained professionals.” He further added.

Lincoln’s premium range includes the Nautilus, Aviator, Corsair and Navigator. Select from a range of powerful SUVs, built with premium craftsmanship, high-technology safety and connectivity features. The Lincoln is the perfect choice for a summer getaway with family and off-roaders.

Embark on the next road trip in the 5-seater mid-size Nautilus powered by a turbocharged 2.0-litre engine that produces 250 horsepower and 380 Nm torque mated with an 8-speed automatic transmission. The engine is exceedingly fuel-efficient and delivers optimal power output. Elevate the experience with seamless connectivity with Android Auto Play and Apply Car play compatibility, wireless charging options, smart exit and entry systems, powerful LED headlamps with AHS, front-rear and side airbag protection, anti-lock braking system and a plethora of other features.

The Navigator powered by a twin-turbo V6, 3.5L GTDI engine that produces a thrilling 440 horsepower and 691 Nm of torque and paired with a 10-speed automatic transmission with SelectShift paddle activation. Easily switch between driving modes with a beautiful animation display, ambient lighting and daytime running LED lights. Command the road with Lincoln’s 22” polished aluminium wheels and the nighttime illuminated Lincoln logo to set off a journey of a lifetime.

The Lincoln Aviator, a mid-sized 4x4 makes a bold presence with an inspiring design and sleek profile. The Aviator offers premium capability in a three-row 7-seater setting. Under the hood, the Aviator is powered by a twin-turbocharged 3.0-liter 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 an engaging driving experience with Lincoln Drive Modes’ five signature settings – Normal, Conserve, Excite, Slippery and Deep Condi-

tions. Equipped with Lincoln Co-Pilot 360™, an integrated driver-assist technology, includes Evasive Steering Assist, Reverse Brake Assist, Active Park Assist Plus and Adaptive Cruise Control with Traffic Jam Assist. Traffic Jam Assist combines Stop-and-Go, Lane Centering and newly developed Speed Sign Recognition to provide a seamless journey experience.

The 5-seater Lincoln Corsair SUV is engineered to deliver a remarkable driving experience carving a perfect balance between comfort, safety and technology adaptations. Its power is packed with a turbocharged four-cylinder engine, an 8-speed automatic transmission with SelectShift, Pilot360™ driver-assist features, and other integrated technologies for the driver’s assistance.

Lincoln has set a benchmark for providing premium luxury driving experiences prioritizing high comfort levels, spaciousness, utility, high-end technology and top-notch safety features inclusion. Consequently, awarded the best premium brand in the Vehicle Satisfaction Awards conducted by Auto Pacific, an automotive marketing research and product consulting firm.

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Offer valid from 1st July to 12th September 2024 and until stock last. The vehicles shown are for illustrative purposes only. Specifications are subject to change without notice. *The OMR mentioned are through Bank Muscat. Auto loan for a tenure of 8 years with 20% cash downpayment and subject to Bank Muscat approval (conditions apply). **Manufacturer's Warranty is 6 years or 200,000 km (whichever comes first) for all models. \$ AAA roadside assistance is valid for the first six years from the date of retail purchase. # Free 100,000 km/5 years service (whichever comes first) applicable only for JAC JS6 and JS4. ## Free private registration for 1 year applicable only for JAC JS6 and JAC J7. Additionally, customers have a chance to participate in the Walk-in & Win raffle and win prizes including One Sony PS5, two Fuel Cards (25 OMR each) and three Gift Vouchers (10 OMR each), winners will be raffled and announced post campaign. For more details, please visit your nearest showroom. Offer valid only for private vehicles. Not available for fleet, Ministry, Taxi, Rental, or commercial car purchases. Terms & Conditions apply.

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