

STATE COUNCIL CHIEF MEETS EU SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Sheikh Abdulmalik Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, on Monday received Luigi Di Maio, European Union's (EU) Special Representative for the Gulf Region, and his accompanying delegation, currently on an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman. **>A2**



ASYAD GROUP ENABLES PRIVATE SECTOR GREATER ACCESS TO GLOBAL MARKETS

Asyad Group, Oman's global integrated logistics provider, unveiled a competitive Less-than-Container Load (LCL) powered by the Group's logistics arm, and delivered on board of its maritime and container fleet. The LCL solution will connect India's Nhava Sheva Port with Oman's Khazaen Dry Port (KDP) via Sohar Port. **>A4**



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AGREEMENT WITH STATE OF PALESTINE

His Majesty the Sultan issues four Royal Decrees

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Monday issued four Royal decrees, reading as follows:

Royal Decree No. (56/ 2023) ratifying the agreement between Government of the Sultanate of Oman and Government of the State of Palestine signed in Ramallah on 7 July 2023 on establishing a Committee for Consultations and Bilateral Cooperation.

Article (1) states that the abovementioned agreement shall be ratified in accordance with the version attached to this decree.

Article (2) says that this decree

shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. (57/ 2023) ratifying the agreement on air services between Government of the Sultanate of Oman and Government of the Republic of Senegal signed in Muscat on 21 June 2023.

Article (1) states that the abovementioned agreement shall be ratified in accordance with the version attached to this decree.

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official



Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. (58/ 2023) endorsing the Sultanate of Oman's joining the Convention on establishing the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation signed in Paris on 27 January 2021.

Article (1) endorses the Sultanate of Oman's joining the Convention on establishing the International Organization for Marine Aids, in accordance with the version attached to this decree.

Article (2) instructs the departments concerned to deposit the

Ratification Document for the abovementioned convention in line with its provisions.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. (59/ 2023) establishing the Sultanate of Oman's Embassy in Australia

Article (1) states that the Sultanate of Oman's Embassy shall be established in Australia.

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. — **ONA**

MEETING

Sayyid Fahd praises efforts to develop education, research



MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers on Monday received GCC Higher Education and Research Ministers and GCC Education Ministers.

The ministers were attending the 23rd meeting of the Committee of GCC Ministers of Higher Education and Research and the 7th meeting of the Committee of GCC Ministers of Education, currently hosted by the Sultanate of Oman.

After welcoming the guests, HH Sayyid Fahd expressed his appreciation for the efforts they have been undertaking to devel-

op education, higher education and research.

He stressed the importance of achieving further cooperation among member states to ensure the realisation of the desired goals in those sectors.

Then, HH Sayyid Fahd spoke about the attention accorded to education in Oman, notably the qualitative expansion taking place in this sector and the efforts made to upgrade it in line with a long-term future vision.

HH Sayyid Fahd explained that education constitutes the basic pillar of the progress and prosperity of nations. He added that investment in the field of education

and research figures among the top priorities of the drive to keep pace progress in the world.

The meeting reviewed the most important topics on the agenda of the two ministerial meetings. It studied Oman Education Ministry's proposals on topics of priority in cooperation and exchange of expertise among GCC states.

The meeting also stressed the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the educational process and the need to enhance cooperation in the fields of education, research, studies and teacher training, with emphasis on educational programmes aimed at protecting social values. **>A5**

QQ GAS NETWORKS TO FLOAT 49% OF ITS SHARE CAPITAL

The MSX listing of the offering is expected to take place in October

Times News Service

MUSCAT: OQ Gas Networks (OQGN), the sole operator of Oman's gas transportation system, on Monday announced its intention to float 49 percent of its total issued share capital with an Initial Public Offering (IPO) and listing on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX).

The MSX listing is expected to take place in October 2023, subject to receiving the required regulatory approvals from the Capital Market Authority (CMA).

The announcement was made at an event held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) in the presence of Qais bin Mohammed Al Yusef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) and other dignitaries.

According to an Oman News Agency (ONA) report, the initial public offering (IPO) is expected to be the biggest in recent times.

The size of OQGN's IPO is expected to be approximately OMR212mn, which will be the largest initial public offering in Oman's capital market history in recent times, ONA added.

It may be recalled that Oman Telecommunications (Omantel) had raised OMR288mn (\$748.09mn) through the sale of a 30 percent stake in 2005.

By offering shares through the IPO, OQGN seeks to leverage the financing advantages provided by the capital market for its projects and investment activities.

OQGN's initial public offering will be the second major IPO at the MSX this year.

In February, Abraj Energy Services Company offered 49 percent of its share capital in an IPO with the aim to raise up to OMR



33mn

A first dividend of OMR33mn for the first nine months of 2023 is estimated to be paid around next January

93.97mn. The IPO received an overwhelming response from both retail and institutional investors and was oversubscribed nearly nine times.

OQ, directly and indirectly through Oman Energy Trading Company Limited and Oman Oil Services Limited, is offering up to 49 percent of the shares. The sell-

ing shareholders reserve the right to amend the size at any time before the end of the subscription period. Immediately after the offering, OQ will continue to hold a minimum of 51percent.

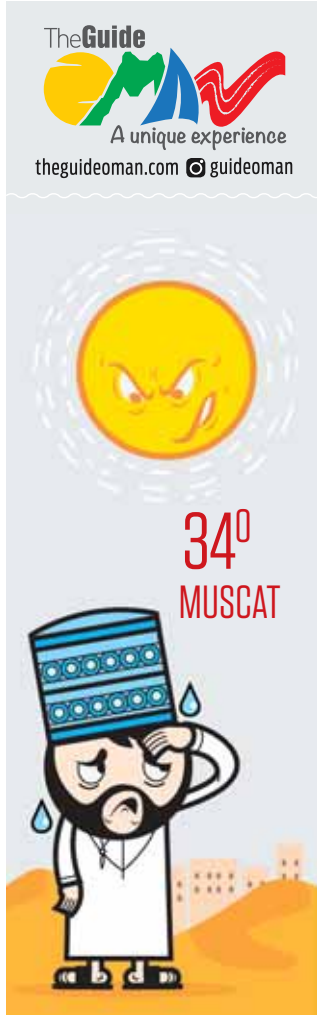
Dividend policy

The company plans to pay a semi-annual dividend in cash to investors after the offering. A first dividend of OMR33mn for the first nine months of 2023 is estimated to be paid around next January, and a second dividend of OMR11mn for the last three months of 2023 will be paid around April next year.

For 2025, the company expects to pay a dividend, which will be higher of 90 percent of the profit for the year ending 31 December 2025 or a 5 percent increase on the dividends paid for 2024.

OQGN's ability to pay dividends is dependent on a number of factors, including the availability of distributable reserves, its capital expenditure plans and other cash requirements in future periods, as well as the necessary approvals.

OQ's Group Chief Executive Talal Al Awfi said: "OQGN's IPO is part of a broader divestment programme envisioned by the government and being implemented by the Sultanate's sovereign wealth fund, the Oman Investment Authority (OIA). **>A6**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN

National Museum issues a special edition

1 The National Museum has issued a special edition titled "Collection in Marine Science". The issue documents the greatness of what the Omani navigator Ahmed bin Majid Al Saadi wrote and reviving his marine prowess and navigational creativity. The edition came in 722 pages. **>A4**

WORLD

Climate summit opens in Nairobi

2 The inaugural Africa Climate Summit kicked off in Nairobi on Monday. Delegates hope to showcase the continent as a destination for climate investment, and to seek solutions and investment. **>A7**

SPORTS

Novak Djokovic storms into quarters

3 Novak Djokovic enjoyed a smooth passage into the US Open quarter-finals as he won in straight sets to end Croatian qualifier Borna Gojo's surprise run on Sunday. **>B6**

OMAN

PRAYER

TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:11pm

Asr.....3:38pm

Maghrib.....6:27pm

Isha.....7:38pm

Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:34am

MEETING

MEETING

Foreign Minister receives EU Special Representative for Gulf

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister yesterday received Luigi Di Maio, European Union's (EU) Special Representative for the Gulf Region.

The meeting discussed developments in the GCC region and ways of enhancing cooperation between the two sides. -ONA



State Council Chairman praises Oman-EU ties

MUSCAT: Sheikh Abdulmalik Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, on Monday received Luigi Di Maio, European Union's (EU) Special Representative for the Gulf Region, and his accompanying delegation, currently on an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman.



Bilateral relations

At the outset of the meeting, Sheikh Abdulmalik commended the status of bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and EU countries.

He expressed his aspiration to help boost the growth of bilateral relations in various fields and open up new tracks for joint co-operation under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on matters of common interest and explored ways of enhancing cooperation between EU councils and the State Council.

For his part, Luigi Di Maio valued the deep-rooted relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the EU. He wished Oman and its people further development, progress and prosperity. -ONA

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ACADEMY OF STRATEGIC AND DEFENCE STUDIES

Joint Command and Staff College celebrates opening of 37th course



MUSCAT: The Academy of Strategic and Defence Studies on Monday celebrated the opening of the 37th course the Joint Command and Staff College for officers. The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Air Commodore Ahmed Mohammed Al Mashaikhi, Commandant

of the Joint Command and Staff College.

At the outset of the ceremony, held at the college's headquarters at Bait Al Falaj, Air Commodore Al Mashaikhi delivered a speech in which he urged the officers to take advantage of the advanced course so that they could be an

example of dedication to military professionalism and discipline.

He also welcomed student officers from other GCC states, wishing them a happy stay in Oman.

The ceremony included a visual presentation about the college's march and accomplishments. -ONA

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NCSI DATA



Tourism revenue generated in Oman reaches OMR1.9bn

MUSCAT: The total tourism revenue generated in the Sultanate of Oman at the end of 2022 stood at OMR1.9 billion, posting an increase of 47.3 percent over the corresponding period in 2021, when the sector registered OMR1.3 billion.

Data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that the tourism sector posted a direct added value of OMR1.1 billion at the end of 2022, up from OMR804.9 million in 2021 (33 percent higher). The tourism sector contributed 2.4 percent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The Tourism Statistical Bulletin showed that local tourism in the Sultanate of Oman contributed 68 percent to tourism production, the equivalent of OMR1.3 billion during 2022.

The number of inbound visitors in 2022 stood at about 2.9 million, an increase of 348 percent over 2021 figure of 652,000.

In terms of volume, the segment of visitors from GCC states took first place (1.6 million visi-

The number of inbound visitors in 2022 stood at about 2.9 million, an increase of 348 percent over 2021 figure of 652,000

tors), followed by visitors from Asian countries (651,000 visitors) and European countries (360,000 visitors), while the number of visitors from other Arab nationalities stood at 240,000.

Leisure and recreation topped the list of main causes of inbound tourism and constituted 43.5 percent of the total number of visits, followed by visits to family and friends (35.7 percent) and employment/business trips (10.5 percent).

The number of visitors who stayed for more than one night during their trip stood at 2.1 million visitors, compared to 861,000 visitors who stayed in Oman for one day. Total general spending by inbound visitors stood at OMR592.4 million.

Outbound tourism

Outbound tourism saw a rise of 166.2 percent to 5.2 million visitors during 2022, compared to 1.9 million visitors during 2021.

Omani visitors constituted 67.3 percent (3.5 million) of total outgoing visitors.

As many as 3.3 million tourists stayed more than one night at their destinations, constituting 64 percent of total outgoing visitors, compared to 1.9 million outgoing visitors who returned during the same day (constituting 36 percent of the total).

The growth rate in overall spending by departing visitors during 2022 surged by 243.8 percent to OMR966.6 as against OMR281.1 million in 2021 in 2022. — **ONA**

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Wadi Al Sarmi road now open for traffic

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology reopened traffic on Wadi Al Sarmi Road in the Wilayat of Al Khaborra in North Al Batinah Governorate on Monday.

The road was repaired after it suffered damages due to weather conditions.

Engineer Younis bin Talib Al Adawi, project engineer at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, explained that the project work included repair of road using retaining walls and concrete paving with a total length of approximately 2 km.

In addition to repairing dam-

aged portions in some parts, two box culverts measuring (2x1m) each with 3 side drainage channels with a diameter of 1.2 meters for each channel were built.

Al Adawi pointed out that the implementation of the project work was taken into account according to the standard specifications approved in the road design manual in Oman, and it was provided with metal barriers, ground paints for traffic safety.

It is noteworthy that the opening of this road will contribute to facilitating and streamlining traffic movement and serving the areas and residential communities in Wadi Al Sarmi up to the A'Dhuwaihar area, in addition to stimulating the tourism movement in the wilayat.





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Asyad enables Oman’s private sector greater access to global markets

Local importers utilising the LCL service will be in a prime position to import their goods from India at reduced costs, shortened transit-times and with a reliable direct weekly service

MUSCAT: Asyad Group, Oman’s global integrated logistics provider, unveiled a competitive Less-than-Container Load (LCL) solution that will connect India’s Nhava Sheva Port with Oman’s Khazaen Dry Port (KDP) via Sohar Port. This initiative is powered by the Group’s logistics arm, and delivered on board of its maritime and container fleet.

The new LCL offering aims to empower Oman’s private sector by providing it with enhanced access to thriving global markets and the right tools to develop its service offering.

The LCL solution is also set to facilitate Omani freight forwarders’ access to KDP’s world-class infrastructure, storage facilities and advanced container handling capabilities. Additionally, local importers and SMEs utilising the LCL service will be in a prime position to import their goods from India at reduced costs, shortened transit-times and with a reliable direct weekly service.

The direct solution will see Asyad



Logistics act as a consolidator and position itself as a partner to freight forwarders by leveraging its integrated logistics ecosystem, highly efficient container freight station (CFS) at KDP, and Asyad Line’s popular weekly India Express Service (IEX), as well as Oman’s proximity to the Indian subcontinent.

With a logistics powerhouse by their side and a world-class logistics ecosystem at their disposal, freight forwarders can guarantee their clients enhanced reliabil-

ity and cost efficiency, as well as expedited connectivity with India’s large export market and Oman’s major business and consumer hubs.

Juma Al Maskari, Asyad Logistics Director, highlighted the importance of this addition to empowering the private sector. “The private logistics sector is playing an increasingly significant role in the national supply chains. In our capacity as Oman’s global integrated logistics service provider, we have

always gone above and beyond to support this trend, constantly introducing services tailored to local businesses of all sizes,” he said.

“The latest LCL addition from India is pivotal, as it offers freight forwarders fast, reliable and cost-efficient access to the doorstep of key business and consumer centres in Oman through KDP, in a fully integrated Asyad journey. Therefore, our new LCL offering stands out as a strong, superior option against the existing services

in other regional hubs,” he added.

Expected to stimulate further growth in trade volume between India and Oman, Asyad’s LCL solution is another testament to the Group’s role as a key trade enabler and driver of Oman’s economy.

This role is projected to become more prominent as Asyad plans to unlock more Indian origins via an expansive network of inland container depots and expand the LCL service to cover imports from Indonesia and Singapore through

the recently upgraded Far East Express (FEX) service.

By introducing additional direct LCL solutions later this year (2023) and continuously expanding its direct lines, logistics and port capabilities, Asyad Group reaffirms its position as a true partner and key enabler of the private sector, supporting its growing role in logistics and realising the Group’s mission to cement Oman’s standing as a global logistics hub.

— ONA

OMANI NAVIGATOR

National Museum issues special edition titled ‘Collection in Marine Science’

MUSCAT: The National Museum has issued a special edition titled ‘Collection in Marine Science’.

The issue documents the greatness of what the Omani navigator Ahmed bin Majid Al Saadi wrote and reviving his marine prowess and navigational creativity.

The collection documents the origin of the manuscript titled “Kitab al-Fawa'id fi 'Ilm al-Bahr wa al-Qawa'id”, (Collection of Manuscripts of Benefits in the Science of the Sea and Rules, as well as the abbreviation container in the origins of marine science and Arajiz), which was loaned from Al Assad National Library in the Syrian Arab Republic to the National Museum since 2019. In the opening speech of the publication, Jamal Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary General of the National Museum, said: “The display of the original manuscript “Collection in the Science of the Seas” by the author Ahmed bin Majid Al Saadi at the National Museum is an affirmation of the Omani identity of this unique scientific and historical personality, which came in the context of the existing cooperation between the National Museum and the Ministry of Culture of the Syrian Arab Republic within the context of cultural diplomacy pursued by the National Museum.

He added: “The manuscript was loaned to the museum for a period of three years for the purpose of preserving before it was made available for museum display. Coordination was maintained with the National Records and Archives Authority in order to restore this document to its original condition, through the implementation of an integrated program for preservation, and revision. This manuscript is one of the few copies made with the aim of preserving the manuscripts of Ahmed bin Majid Al Saadi in the world, the oldest of which is preserved in the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts in Saint Petersburg, Russia.”



Dr. Hamad Mohammed Al Dhoyani, NRAA Chairman expressed thanks to the brethren in the Syrian Arab Republic for promoting cultural, documentary and museum cooperation.

There is no doubt that the process of making such edition available and displaying it in the Na-

tional Museum and presenting it is a good opportunity to familiarise with the achievements of Omani scholars as the Omani Navigator Ahmed bin Majid and his works are considered an important asset for Arab and Islamic thought and culture, Al Dhoyani added.

Dr. Bassam Al Khatib, former

Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Sultanate of Oman said that displaying the manuscript in the National Museum reflects the depth of cultural relations between two countries that had a permanent imprint on the course of human civilization.

He added that the launch of the



The issue documents the greatness of what the Omani navigator Ahmed bin Majid Al Saadi wrote and reviving his marine prowess and navigational creativity.

manuscript of Ahmad bin Majid Al Saadi entitled “The Book of Benefits in Knowledge of the Science of the Sea and the Rules” is an expression of a deep and long-term rapprochement between the Sultanate of Oman and the Syrian Arab Republic because the original manuscript was in Damascus, thanks to the diplomacy of culture and historical brotherhood, which led to the issuance of a Syrian presidential decree to lend the manuscript to the Sultanate of Oman.

The edition came in (722 pages).

It includes the introduction to the study conducted by Dr. Humaid Saif Al Nofali to the manuscript and introduction to the edition. The first topic entitled (the copy of the edition), the second topic entitled (Manuscript Letters), and the third topic entitled (preserving the manuscript) and finally review of the photocopied version of the manuscript, along with displaying the details of the manuscript.

The “Collection of proses in Marine Science” manuscript was exhibited at the Maritime History Gallery at the National Museum for 3 months during 2021. The Manuscript was loaned from the Institute of the Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Saint Petersburg in Russia. Dated back to the 16th century, it considered to be the oldest manuscript of Ahmad bin Majid in the world. It contains collection of Arajiz (poems) in marine science entitled; Urjūzah Moa'lakiya, Urjūzah Alttayiya, and Urjūzah Sufalia. Along with Kitāb al-fawā'id fi ilm al-bahr wa-al-qawā'id (The Book of the Benefits of the Principles and Foundations of Seamanship), that was loaned from Al Assad National Library in Syrian Arab Republic. - ONA

Role of AI in the field of education discussed

Dr. Madiha Ahmed Al Shaibani, Minister of Education, who chaired the meeting, delivered a speech in which she affirmed that the educational work in GCC countries is progressing at a steady pace



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman on Monday hosted the 7th meeting of the GCC Education Ministers' Committee.

The meeting discussed a wide range of topics, including the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the field of education, the effects of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) on education and ways to instill principles of financial culture in school students.

Dr. Madiha Ahmed Al Shaibani, Minister of Education, who chaired the meeting, delivered a speech in which she affirmed that the educational work in GCC countries is progressing at a steady pace, inspired by the determination of the countries' leaders to establish common visions to upgrade education in a manner that better serves the future of the GCC people.

This, she added, underscores the leading role of education in achieving the common objectives, notably sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Dr. Madiha said that, within the framework of a system to foster



comprehensive quality, the GCC education sector's accomplishments are noteworthy and that these efforts, which spearheaded the GCC march, began to yield fruit in reality.

Dr. Madiha pointed out that educational indicators issued by international organisations showed that the GCC countries continued to achieve good results in various international studies, an evidence of which was the rising number of GCC students who obtained advanced standards in areas covered by the respective studies.

The tremendous development

in the field of information technology contributed to human advancement and led to the achievement of economic development and social and economic wellbeing, Dr. Madiha said, stressing that "this requires our educational systems to protect moral and religious values and preserve the social structure in our GCC societies".

Dr. Madiha explained that the meeting coincides with UNESCO's issuance of the guiding principles for information and communications technology (ICT) in education policies and masterplans.

Technical Education Week

"The issuance of the guidelines also coincides with the organisation's celebration of Technical Education Week (in September 2023)".

For his part, Jassim Mohammed Al Budaiwi, GCC Secretary General, commended the efforts of the GCC Education Ministers' Committee in lending strong support to the GCC, since its

inception in 1975.

Al Budaiwi also valued the efforts of GCC education ministries during the Covid-19 pandemic. This stance reflected the ministers' ability to deal with disasters within their scopes of action, he added.

The ministers looked into the proposal of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Education, on issues of priority within the context of the member states' cooperation and exchange of expertise.

The ministers also underlined the importance of protecting moral, religious, and family values in Gulf societies.

Towards this goal, they stressed the need to utilise the full potential and capabilities of all institutions, including diplomatic, media, educational, cultural, legislative, religious and civil institutions.

The overall objective should be preserving the intactness of the family, the unity of society and member states' progress and prosperity, the ministers said. -ONA

Seasonal Influenza vaccination in adults and children



Influenza is an acute respiratory illness caused by influenza A or B viruses. Influenza viruses change their antigenic characteristics frequently, and their spread depends

upon the susceptibility of the population to viruses with novel antigens. New influenza vaccines are produced each year, given the capacity of influenza virus for antigenic drift.

Annual influenza vaccination before winter, is an important public health measure for preventing seasonal influenza infection. The vaccine is routinely used in healthcare workers, elderly and children above 6 months of age. Influenza vaccine is an egg-based vaccine and should be avoided in people with history of hen's egg allergy and history of severe allergic reaction.



HIRING

New batch of diploma graduates joins ROP

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has completed the procedures of hiring a new group of male and female citizens who hold a general education diploma after they passed all stages of evaluation, including electronic, written and sports tests and personal interviews.

This is a continuation of the procedures of the Royal Oman Police in employing Omani youth in coordination with the Ministry of Labour in accordance with the plan approved by the General Police Command to supply various formations with manpower in

line with the expansion witnessed by the Royal Oman Police in all fields.

The new batch of new police headed to the Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences to receive training in specialised institutes to provide them with police, legal and academic sciences, in addition to receiving specialised courses in self-defence, swimming, shooting, medical first aid and other courses that qualify them to carry out the various duties and tasks of the Royal Oman Police.

The recruits expressed their willingness to pass the training stage and join their fellow police officers in all fields of work.

MEETING

GCC ministers thank Oman for hosting meet

<FROM A1 GCC ministers thanked Oman, chair of the current session of the GCC, for hosting two meetings. They valued the preparations for the meetings which con-

tributed to achieving a positive outcome. They also hailed Oman's role in the success of the GCC march. The meeting was attended by Jassim Mohammed Al Budaiwi, GCC Secretary General, Dr.

Madiha Ahmed Al Shaibani, Minister of Education and Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

-ONA

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Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology

إعلان مناقصة Tender Notice

The Internal Tenders Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology In Al Khuwair invites for the Following Project:

TENDER NUMBER	TENDER NAME	DATE OF PUBLISHING	LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENT	SUBMISSION DATE	COMPANIES WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS TENDER	DOCUMENT PRICE
MT-CIT/177/2023	DESIGN AND SETUP THE SAS CENTER IN INNOVATION PARK MUSCAT	5-09-2023	18-09-2023	16-10-2023	Experienced SME Companies Registered in Consultancy Category, With the Secretariat General Of Tender Board (Third)	(10/-) Ten Omani Rial Non- Refundable
MT-CIT/175/2023	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR PREPARATION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS OF DESIGN AND BUILD OF AL JABAL AL AKHDAR ROAD STARTING FROM SOUTH AL BATINA AL JABAL AL AKHDAR	4-09-2023	17-09-2023	15-10-2023	Experienced Companies Registered in Consultancy Category, With the Secretariat General of Tender Board (First)	(25/-) Twenty-Five Omani Rial (For Local) (10/-) Ten Omani Rial (FOR SME) Non-Refundable
MT-CIT/174/2023	CONSULTANCY SERVICES OF SUPERVISION FOR DESIGN & BUILT OF AFRI HILL ROAD BETWEEN (WILAYAT SAMAIL- WILAYAT IZKI), AND DESIGN & BUILT OF ASPHALT ROAD TO AL-SAQARI VILLAGE (DAKHILIYAH GOVERNORATE)	4-09-2023	13-09-2023	11-10-2023	Experienced Companies Registered in Consultancy Category, With the Secretariat General of Tender Board (First)	(56/-) Fifty-Six Omani Rial (For Local) (10/-) Ten Omani Rial (FOR SME)

Interested Companies registered with the Secretariat General of Tender Board may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document. Tenders should be submitted online on given website

CORRESPONDANCE:

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OMAN/WORLD

TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER



Environment Authority holds meeting for participation in COP-28 on climate change

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority on Tuesday discussed the impacts of climate change on environmental and ecological systems and provided an overview of the United Nations (UN) conventions on climate change.

The discussions took place during the Environment Authority's first preparatory meeting for Oman's negotiating team that will participate in the Global Climate Action Summit and the Conference of the Parties to the 28th United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change (COP-28).

The COP-28 conference is scheduled to be held in November 2023 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The preparatory meeting introduced reports from recent meetings attended by some members of the Omani climate affairs team and reviewed the efforts of the Sultanate of Oman in this respect.

The meeting also discussed the negotiating team's action plan during various stages of its partici-

pation in this global summit and the COP Conference.

The preparatory meeting aims at upgrading the technical capabilities of the members of Oman's negotiating team. It discussed means of optimal preparation for the team to actively participate in multilateral meetings, negotiations and discussions held within the purviews of UN conventions on climate change. It also touched on related topics and issues at the international, regional and national levels. — **ONA**

CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

Gabon coup leader sworn in as interim president

LIBREVILLE: The leader of Gabon's military junta, General Brice Nguema has been sworn in as the interim president by the country's constitutional court during a televised ceremony on Monday, according to media report.

Nguema, last week, led a coup that ousted President Ali Bongo Ondimba. The military takeover appears to have truncated the Bongo family's decades-long dominance over Gabonese politics.

Bongo, 64, succeeded his father Omar Bongo, who ruled the Central African nation with an iron fist for more than four decades before his death in 2009.

Bongo, who has been in power for nearly 14 years was ahead of last week's coup declared winner of a disputed presidential election that was marred by voting delays and Internet cuts.

— **ANI**



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UGANDA POLICE

Bomb attack foiled

KAMPALA: Police in Uganda said on Sunday that they had foiled a bomb attack on a church in the capital, Kampala. They said the attacker was detained as he was entering church grounds.

Hundreds of churchgoers were evacuated from the Lubaga Miracle Centre Cathedral after the failed attack, police spokesman Patrick Onyango said.

"We have carried out a controlled detonation of the improvised explosive device which was

made of nails, a motorcycle battery, a charger and a telephone handset which was to be used in the attack," he added.

He said that security personnel had had intelligence on the plot and had tracked the assailant. The bomb was discovered in the man's backpack after he was stopped and searched. Onyango said that the man had admitted to having three accomplices who were to carry out similar attacks elsewhere in the country. — **DW**

OQ GAS NETWORKS INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING

IPO is in accordance with pertinent Sharia principles of AAOIFI

<FROM A1 "This marquee offering is an opportunity for Omani and international investors to participate in Oman's Vision 2040, the long-term national development plan that aims to make Oman a prosperous, competitive and sustainable nation and to rapidly diversify its economy."

"The listing of OQGN, which owns and operates critical gas transportation infrastructure in Oman, is in line with this ambition, while enriching the dynamically developing Omani stock market. We look forward to the listing on the MSX and are excited for what's to come".

The offering is being offered to

eligible investors in Oman and qualified institutional and other investors in a number of countries (the Category I Investors) and retail investors in Oman (Category II Investors). Category I offer represents 70 percent of the total offering (out of which 30 percent of the offer shares have been reserved for Anchor Investors) and will be made to eligible investors in Oman and qualified institutional and other investors in a number of countries. Category II offer represents 30 percent of the total offering for retail investors. If the aggregate demand in Category II is less than 30 percent of the offer, then after full allocation to the Category II investors, the balance

of the shares shall be made available to Category I investors, if there is oversubscription in Category I.

Subscription period

The subscription period for Category I and Category II investors is expected to commence in September, after receiving the required approval from the CMA.

The Sharia Review Bureau (SRB) has also issued a pronouncement confirming that, in its view, based on the circumstances as at the date of this pronouncement, the Offering is Sharia compliant in accordance with pertinent Sharia principles of the AAOIFI Sharia standards as of the date of this statement.

Core focus unchanged

Mansoor Al Abdali, Managing Director of OQGN, said: "OQGN, as the exclusive operator of the NGTN in Oman, provides critical infrastructure to deliver gas that supports the industries and economy of Oman. This listing, which we are proud to be conducting on the Muscat Stock Exchange, will allow us to move the company into the next chapter of growth."

"The core focus of OQGN will remain unchanged, focusing on the delivery of vital resources supporting the growth of our customers and the Sultanate of Oman."

"Our work is underlined by a commitment to reliability, efficiency, safety and sustainability.

Together with our partners at OQ and OIA, we look forward to the listing and are excited by the opportunities it brings – to our customers, our investors, our employees, and the people of Oman".

OQGN transports gas, through the NGTN on behalf of the shipper, which buys gas from gas producers and sells it to gas consumers.

At present, there is only one shipper, IGC, although additional shippers may be introduced in the future.

In 2022, the company transported 39.4 billion cubic metres (bcm) of gas, from six gas producers to a diverse consumer base of approximately 130 gas consumers through approximately 4,031 kms of gas

pipelines, supported by three compressor stations and 25 gas supply stations, providing uninterrupted gas supply in 2022.

In 2022, OQGN earned income of OMR 160.4 million. For the six months that ended 30 June 2023, the company earned income of OMR 85mn.

In June 2023, OQGN entered into refinancing facilities in order to improve the company's long-term capital structure.

Bank Muscat, BofA Securities and EFG-Hermes UAE Limited (acting in conjunction with EFG Hermes UAE LLC) have been appointed as Joint Global Coordinators, and Bank Muscat has been appointed as Issue Manager.







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GREEN ENERGY TRANSITION

Landmark Africa Climate Summit opens in Nairobi

NAIROBI: The inaugural Africa Climate Summit kicked off in Nairobi, Kenya on Monday, with the continent seeking to change the narrative around climate change.

Delegates hope to showcase the continent as a destination for climate investment, and to seek solutions and investment for a green energy transition.

"If we do not develop adequate response measures to deal with the climate change crisis, it will destroy us," Kenyan Environment Minister Soipan Tuyaa said in her opening remarks.

The summit aims to develop a common African position ahead of a UN climate conference next month in New York and the COP28 summit in the United Arab Emirates in November.

Mobilising climate funding

The summit anticipates significant deals worth hundreds of millions of dollars to be struck, with market-based financing tools like carbon credits taking centre stage.

These instruments, allowing emitters to offset their carbon



footprint, are contentious. Critics argue they permit continued pollution by wealthier nations at Africa's expense.

They are also calling for increased financial assistance from developed countries to help them adapt to the impacts of climate change and transition to a low-carbon economy.

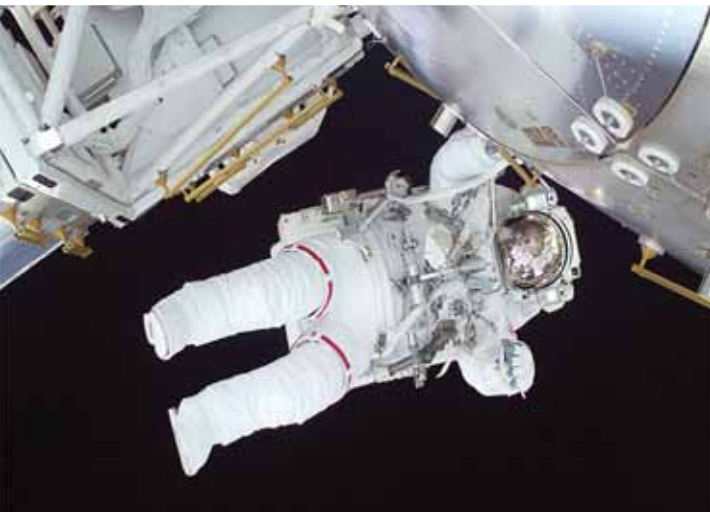
Climate change debate

"The climate change debate has entered a new era. It is no longer just about tackling an environmental or development problem, but about addressing climate change in the context of justice," Tuyaa said

Governments in Africa have also shown interest in debt-for-nature swaps, as these transactions yield savings that can be used to fund conservation. —**DW**

Astronauts splash down off Florida coast after 6-month mission at ISS

The group spent six months onboard the orbiting laboratory after launch to the station in March



WASHINGTON DC: Four astronauts on Monday returned home from a six-month stay on the International Space Station (ISS), making a splashdown landing aboard their SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule off the coast of Florida, CNN reported.

The astronauts, members of the Crew-6 mission run jointly by NASA and SpaceX, departed the space station on Sunday at 7:05 am ET.

The crew spent the day aboard the 13-foot-wide Crew Dragon vehicle as it manoeuvred through Earth's orbit and toward its target

landing site off the coast of Jacksonville, Florida, where they landed after midnight ET.

The Crew Dragon capsule was travelling at more than 17,000 miles per hour (27,000 kilometres per hour), and as it began the final leg of its descent, the spacecraft's exterior heated up to about 3,500 degrees Fahrenheit (1,900 degrees Celsius) while it sliced back into the thickest part of Earth's atmosphere, as per CNN.

Passengers inside the spacecraft cabin were protected by a heat shield and the temperature should've stayed at comfortable temperatures well below 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.8 degrees Celsius).

The capsule then deployed sets of parachutes to further slow its descent. Rescue crews waiting near the splash-down site are pre-

pared to haul the spacecraft out of the ocean and onto a special boat, called the "Dragon's Nest," where final safety checks will take place before the crew can disembark.

Before the astronauts left the space station, NASA said that it had been monitoring the impact of Hurricane Idalia, which made landfall on Wednesday morning on Florida's Gulf Coast. The storm pummeled northern Florida before tearing through southern Georgia and into the Carolinas, as per CNN.

The four astronauts that make up the Crew-6 team include NASA astronauts Stephen Bowen and Warren "Woody" Hoburg, as well as Sultan Alneyadi, the second astronaut from the United Arab Emirates to travel to space, and Russian cosmonaut Andrey Fedyaev.

The group spent six months on board the orbiting laboratory after launching to the station in March. Over the past week, the Crew-6 astronauts worked to welcome and hand over operations to Crew-7 team members, who arrived at the space station on August 27. —**DW**

INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION



Moon mission: Vikram Lander is set into sleep mode, says ISRO

NEW DELHI: In a major development, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that the 'Vikram Lander' has been set into sleep mode at around 08 AM (Indian Standard Time) on Monday morning.

ISRO said that the data collected by the payloads is received at the Earth and the Payloads are now switched off. It is expected by ISRO that Vikram Lander and Pragyaan will awake again on around September 22.

"Vikram Lander is set into sleep mode around 08:00 Hrs. IST today. Prior to that, in-situ experiments by ChaSTE, RAMBHA-LP and ILSA payloads are performed at the new location. The data collected is received at the Earth. Payloads are now switched off. Lander receivers are kept ON. Vikram will fall asleep next to Pragyan once the solar power is depleted and the battery is drained. Hoping for their awakening, around September 22, 2023," ISRO posted on X. The Vikram lander was carrying the Chandrayaan-3 Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) to measure



surface thermal properties, the Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA) to measure seismicity around the landing site, the Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive ionosphere and Atmosphere (RAMBHA) to study the gas and plasma environment, and a passive laser retroreflector array provided by NASA for lunar ranging studies.

On August 23, India took a giant leap as the Chandrayaan-3 lander module successfully landed on the moon's South Pole, making it the first country to have achieved the historic feat and bringing to

an end the disappointment over the crash landing of the Chandrayaan-2, four years ago. Overall, India became the fourth country — after the US, China, and Russia — to have successfully landed on the moon's surface.

After having landed, the Vikram Lander and the Pragyan rover performed different set tasks on the lunar surface, including finding the presence of sulphur and recording relative temperature. Upon landing, the lander and the rover were to operate for one lunar day. One day on the Moon is equal to 14 days on Earth. —**ANI**

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SPORTS

DRAW CEREMONY HELD

His Majesty’s Cup football to kick off on September 28

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Former champions and nine-time winners Fanja will aim to equal Dhofar’s record of ten titles when they begin their campaign in the 2023-24 His Majesty’s Cup Football Championship against Al Salam on September 28.

A glittering ceremony marked the draw of the Sultanate of Oman’s most prestigious competition at the Kempinski Hotel Muscat in the presence of His Highness Sayyid Loay bin Ghalib Al Said, the chief guest, Sheikh Salim Al Wahaibi, Oman Football Association (OFA) president, H H Sayyid Azzan bin Kais Al Said, Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) vice-president, other dignitaries and representative of clubs.

Former Oman football stars Hassan Mudhaffar and Adil Matar picked up the draw of lots.

The draw of the preliminary round (knockout format)



witnessed 16 teams drawn against each other with former champions Muscat taking on Sur in another mouth-watering clash. The 16 teams included 12 teams from the Oman First Division League and four bot-

tom-placed Omantel League teams.

A total of 16 teams were drawn in the first round with the other eight teams earning a first-round bye for the 24-team tournament.

The eight teams included de-



fending champions Al Nahda and the top seven finishers of last season’s Omantel League. They include Dhofar, Seeb, Sohar, Al Nasr, Al Rustaq, Bahla and Oman

The other preliminary round

matches pits Al Wahda vs Al Taliya, Saham vs Nizwa, Ibbi vs Al Shabab, Quriyat vs Al Mudhaibi, Ahli-Sidab vs Salalah and Al Khabourah and Al Ittihad.

The winners of the preliminary

round will join the eight in the round of 16 with four-time champions Seeb drawn against in-form 2023-24 Omantel League leaders Sohar. The remaining six teams will await the winners of the preliminary round.

Historic deal between Saudi and Iran football federations

Both countries agree to resume hosting bilateral football matches of national teams and clubs

KUALA LUMPUR: The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) on Monday confirmed that all matches between the national teams and clubs of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) and Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) will take place on a home-and-away basis.

The positive development follows a groundbreaking agreement between the SAFF and FFIRI on Monday, which has been duly communicated to the AFC.

Prior to the agreement between the two AFC Member Associations, all matches between the SAFF and FFIRI at the national and club levels were mandated to be played in neutral venues in accordance with the 2016 decision of the AFC Competitions Committee and AFC Executive Committee.

The AFC welcomed the historic move as it reflected the commitment of both the SAFF and FFIRI towards fostering closer ties between their respective footballing communities, allowing clubs to host matches on their home turf and visiting the respective away stadiums, creating a more engaging and exciting experience for the fans and players alike.

Passionate fans across Saudi Arabia, Iran and the whole of Asia can now look forward to a thrilling new chapter in club and national team football as teams from SAFF and FFIRI battle in the spirit of competition and camaraderie.

With the home-and-away matches of the AFC Champions



League 2023/24 season between clubs of the SAFF and FFIRI set to kick off on September 19, the AFC is fully committed to ensuring the safety and security of all stakeholders involved in these matches, while securing the necessary approvals of the

relevant AFC committees.

Iran’s Football Federation President Mehdi Taj and his Saudi counterpart Yasser Al Masehal held a meeting recently, which was also attended by FIFA President Gianni Infantino, in Australia.

Saudi Arabia had cut diplomat-

ic ties with Iran in early 2016 in response to attacks on Saudi diplomatic missions in the country after the kingdom executed a cleric. Since then all matches between the two sides’ football clubs have been held in neutral countries.

In March, Saudi Arabia and

Iran reached a groundbreaking agreement in Beijing to resume diplomatic relations and reopen their embassies and missions.

On April 6, the two countries officially announced the resumption of diplomatic relations with immediate effect.



India pacer Bumrah becomes father

MUMBAI: Star India pacer Jasprit Bumrah and his wife Sanjana Ganesan have been blessed with a baby boy on Monday.

“Our little family has grown & our hearts are fuller than we could ever imagine! This morning we welcomed our little boy, Angad Jasprit Bumrah into the world. We are over the moon and can’t wait for everything this new chapter of our lives brings with it - Jasprit and Sanjana,” posted Bumrah on his official X handle, previously known as Twitter.

The speedster left for Mumbai amid the ongoing Asia Cup due to personal reasons.

The Indian cricketer is expected to be back in time for the Super Stage of the tournament, starting from September 6 onwards.

Bumrah had just made his international cricket return after over 10 months from injury during India’s T20I series against Ireland as a captain. Not only did he lead a young Indian team to a series win, but also displayed amazing fitness and rhythm, taking four wickets in two matches, with the best figures of 2/15. - ANI

ASIA CUP

Bangladesh’s Mehidy, Shanto flex leadership credentials

LAHORE: With Bangladesh on the brink of elimination at the Asia Cup, there was an onus on their in-form players to step up against Afghanistan on Sunday.

And step up, they did. Najmul Hossain Shanto, the team’s leading run-scorer in all formats this year, and Mehidy Hasan Miraz, their transformed allrounder, struck vital centuries. Their 194-run stand made the difference in Bangladesh’s 89-run win in Lahore.

Bangladesh bounced back from their defeat against Sri Lanka with a much-improved batting display to thump Afghanistan and secure a spot in the Super Fours of Asia Cup 2023.

Centuries from the in-form Najmul Hossain Shanto (104) and makeshift opener Mehidy Hasan Miraz (112*) helped Bangladesh post an imposing 334 for 5 before Taskin Ahmed and Shoriful Islam helped bowl Afghanistan out for 245 in 44.3 overs.

Mehidy retiring hurt with a cramped right hand effectively ended their partnership, but when they came together in the 11th over, Bangladesh had lost two quick wickets after making their best start against Afghanistan. Mehidy was one of those who made the good start possible after being promoted up to open, *ESPNcricinfo* reported.

He is growing into one of the rare international cricketers who can bat anywhere in the order, besides regularly bowling his full quota of overs. Mehidy opened the innings against a bowling attack that Bangladesh consider one of the best in the world.

Mehidy said that he was informed about the new role on the eve of this game, but that he had also mentally prepared himself.

“I am really happy to get my second hundred,” Mehidy said. “I was confident batting in the middle. The team management said that I should play normal cricket.



The wicket was excellent. There was a bit of movement in the first few overs. I just tried to handle the situation. We played really well in this match.

“Credit goes to the captain and team management [for the opening role]. Last night, they told me to open the innings. I agreed with them. I can play [as opener]. The last Asia Cup, I opened in the final.

I was confident. I am always ready for every bowler. Actually, it is a new journey for me.”

Mehidy said that although it was a hot day in Lahore, he enjoyed batting on that pitch.

“It was too hot today, but conditions in the middle were very good. The wicket was really good. This is my first game in Lahore. I was a bit confused before getting

here, but our practice was excellent. I was a bit cautious at the start, but after playing a few balls, Naim and I started well. It gave me confidence.”

Later on, Shanto was positive from the start which was possible only because Mehidy was batting positively at the other end. Mehidy isn’t your run-of-the-mill slogger from the lower order. He has shots around the wicket - from a proper cover drive to cheeky ramps to big hits down the ground. He rotates the strike, whether he is opening like he did on Sunday, or when he bats at No. 7 or 8.

Shanto and Mehidy contributing heavily in a critical game is an invaluable addition for a dressing room which gets into a flux sometimes. The Bangladesh team, from time to time, finds itself surrounded by controversies and unnecessary discussions. Talk about the senior players ending their careers soon has been a hot topic of

late; the Tamim saga and the Mahmudullah question have overshadowed a lot of other things that had been happening in full view.

In that sense, the improvement of players like Shanto, Mehidy and Taskin Ahmed in all formats - and how others like Towhid Hridoy and Shamim Hossain have taken to ODI cricket - is heartening.

As Bangladesh expect the next generation of cricketers to become match-winners at the highest level, they also need a group of leaders to guide the future. Shanto and Mehidy have been earmarked for this role for a long time, but they needed big performances in big moments for Bangladesh. These last 12 months have seen them take that next step. This big partnership and their centuries while batting in the top four against Afghanistan could go a long way into establishing their leadership credentials for a not-too-distant future.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2023 reaching \$89.41, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.18 from the price of Friday, which was \$88.23. - OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,757.62 points, down by 0.35 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.57 per cent at 470.33 points. Oman United Insurance, up 3.70 per cent, was the top gainer while, Construction Materials, down 9.84 per cent, was the top loser.



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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Oman United Insurance, up 3.70 per cent, was the top gainer while, Construction Materials, down 9.84 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,757.62 points, down by 0.35 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.57 per cent at 470.33 points. Oman United Insurance, up 3.70 per cent, was the top gainer while, Construction Materials, down 9.84 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 534 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR3.48 million, with more than 11.31 million shares changing hands. Out of 47 traded securities, 9 advanced, 22 declined, and 16 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR62,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR41,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR20,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,738.68 points, down 0.89 per cent. Prices of Oman United Insurance were up by 3.70 per cent respectively. Prices of Takaful Oman, Global Financial Investments, Oman Arab Bank, Taageer Finance, Muscat Finance were up by 7.27 per cent, 4.92 per cent, 3.45 per cent, 3.23 per cent, 1.79 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,894.03 points, down 0.53 per cent. Prices of Oman Chromite, Galfar Engineering, Gulf Mushroom Products were up by 3.00 per cent, 1.90 per cent, 1.82 per cent respectively. Prices of Construction Materials, Dhofar Cattle Feed, Gulf International Chemicals, Raysut Cement, Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 9.84 per cent, 9.59 per cent, 8.75 per cent, 2.58 per cent, 1.91 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.03 per cent before closing at 1,651.46 points. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS						
INDICES						
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,777.00	4,756.48	4,757.62	4,774.54	-16.92	-0.35
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,800.73	7,738.68	7,738.68	7,808.32	-69.64	-0.89
Industry Index	5,894.04	5,894.04	5,894.04	5,925.50	-31.47	-0.53
Services Index	1,658.19	1,646.15	1,651.46	1,650.98	0.48	0.03
MSX Shariah Index	474.98	470.23	470.33	473.03	-2.70	-0.57
MSX TR INDEX	6,289.49	6,262.48	6,263.98	6,286.26	-22.28	-0.35
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,512.03	8,444.33	8,444.33	8,520.32	-75.99	-0.89
SERVICES TR IDX	1,831.39	1,818.08	1,823.95	1,823.42	0.53	0.03
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,344.97	6,281.34	6,296.29	6,329.91	-33.61	-0.53
Trading Summary						
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal
11,313,611	3,481,132	534	23,764,550,276	9	22	16
						47

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFR	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	56,357	15,218	13	0.270	0.280	0.268	0.280	0.270	0.010	3.704	0.280	0.269	0.277	0.100	28,000,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	937,448	359,650	53	0.380	0.385	0.380	0.385	0.383	0.002	0.522	0.385	0.385	0.420	0.100	250,613,529
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	118,440	12,472	9	0.105	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.106	0.106	0.107	0.100	15,900,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	467,500	187,000	25	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.390	0.400	0.100	287,346,170
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	5,200	1,820	2	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000	0.350	0.350	0.360	0.100	115,805,449
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	788	209	1	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.000	0.000	0.265	0.000	0.265	0.100	33,097,959
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	10,181	599	3	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.000	0.000	0.059	0.058	0.061	0.100	21,011,511
OM0000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	35,000	35,420	2	1.012	1.012	1.012	1.012	1.012	0.000	0.000	1.012	1.012	1.070	0.100	69,828,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	68,000	5,848	3	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.084	0.086	0.100	15,050,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	35,407	9,914	4	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.280	0.308	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	729,851	742,922	36	1.018	1.018	1.017	1.017	1.019	-0.002	-0.196	1.017	1.017	1.020	0.100	762,750,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	333,245	136,497	25	0.410	0.410	0.404	0.410	0.411	-0.001	-0.243	0.410	0.410	0.418	0.100	96,928,100
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	498,381	52,908	14	0.106	0.107	0.106	0.106	0.107	-0.001	-0.935	0.106	0.106	0.109	0.100	579,596,181
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	3,697,688	1,041,597	107	0.283	0.283	0.280	0.280	0.284	-0.004	-1.406	0.280	0.280	0.290	0.100	21,011,511
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	42,063	8,440	16	0.204	0.206	0.200	0.206	0.210	-0.004	-1.905	0.206	0.199	0.210	0.100	45,320,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	179,997	10,550	9	0.059	0.059	0.058	0.058	0.061	-0.003	-4.918	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.100	11,600,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	196,315	13,576	20	0.070	0.070	0.068	0.068	0.072	-0.004	-5.556	0.068	0.067	0.070	0.100	13,575,221
Total		17	7,412,021	2,634,641	344											
Parallel Market																
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	2,500	12,728	5	5.050	5.150	5.050	5.150	5.000	0.150	3.000	5.150	4.800	5.150	0.100	15,450,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	321,747	286,998	21	0.882	0.882	0.882	0.882	0.870	0.012	2.529	0.892	0.882	0.925	0.100	84,740,000
OM0000004735	SEMBOOP SALALAH	366,300	36,174	9	0.099	0.099	0.096	0.098	0.096	0.002	2.083	0.098	0.099	0.098	0.100	93,548,051
OM0000003217	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	590,000	94,561	32	0.159	0.161	0.157	0.161	0.158	0.003	1.899	0.161	0.158	0.161	0.100	32,680,818
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	30,998	6,954	5	0.225	0.225	0.224	0.224	0.220	0.004	1.818	0.224	0.223	0.234	0.100	10,251,539
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	25,000	1,100	6	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.100	3,740,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	70,200	3,019	2	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.039	0.042	0.100	6,880,000
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	157,800	15,781	6	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.094	0.100	0.100	20,000,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	10,579	1,291	2	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.000	0.000	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.100	51,821,966
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	38,509	11,406	13	0.297	0.299	0.293	0.294	0.296	-0.002	-0.676	0.294	0.294	0.295	0.100	226,438,800
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	60,000	7,330	4	0.123	0.123	0.122	0.122	0.123	-0.001	-0.813	0.122	0.112	0.120	0.100	9,931,136
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	356,942	34,980	14	0.098	0.099	0.098	0.098	0.099	-0.001	-1.010	0.098	0.098	0.100	0.100	219,221,397
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	143,310	11,321	6	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.080	-0.001	-1.250	0.079	0.079	0.080	0.100	18,274,000
OM0000005962	PHOENIX POWER	748,405	46,464	11	0.062	0.064	0.061	0.064	0.065	-0.001	-1.538	0.064	0.061	0.064	0.100	93,606,493
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	100,000	12,800	1	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.130	-0.002	-1.538	0.128	0.000	0.130	0.100	9,666,816
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	255,700	13,814	9	0.054	0.055	0.054	0.055	0.056	-0.001	-1.786	0.055	0.054	0.058	0.100	16,893,048
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	14,000	2,141	2	0.154	0.154	0.151	0.151	0.155	-0.004	-2.581	0.151	0.151	0.152	0.100	30,200,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	117,336	10,860	7	0.093	0.093	0.090	0.090	0.093	-0.003	-3.228	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	7,650,000
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	50,000	4,550	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.089	0.090	0.100	23,745,153
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	1,922	270	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.145	-0.005	-3.448	0.140	0.141	0.142	0.100	233,717,400
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	15,250	778	3	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.055	-0.004	-7.273	0.051	0.050	0.050	0.100	12,750,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	61,994	4,481	7	0.088	0.088	0.072	0.073	0.080	-0.007	-8.750	0.073	0.072	0.079	0.100	1,533,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAH FOODS AND INVESTMENT	11,500	759	2	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.073	-0.007	-9.589	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.100	13,046,677
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	75,300	4,142	8	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.061	-0.006	-9.836	0.055	0.000	0.055	0.100	3,437,500
Total		24	3,626,302	624,650	177											

NEW BRAND

Al Ahlia Insurance, NLGIC rebrand as Liva to drive growth of insurance industry

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Al Ahlia Insurance Company SAOC and National Life & General Insurance Company SAOG (NLGIC) have come together to form a new brand – Liva – with the aim of revolutionising the insurance landscape.

These two dynamic and award-winning companies started their integration journey in July 2022 with an ambition to build the region's leading multi-line insurer that delivers value to its customers, while generating sustainable and profitable earnings for its shareholders. Liva aims to deliver on this mission.

“Liva marks a powerful evolution that draws upon the rich heritage of NLGIC and Al Ahlia Insurance, all aimed at revolutionising insurance to meet today's dynamic realities. The name ‘Liva’, encompassing ‘protection’ and ‘life’, perfectly mirrors our commitment to safeguarding our customers’ lives,



enabling them to embrace every moment. Through a combination of our strengths, we've crafted a robust brand identity that propels us forward, powering our journey towards ambitious growth,” said Hanaa Al Hinai, CEO of Al Ahlia Insurance (to rebrand as Liva).

Liva builds on the strong brand equity of Al Ahlia Insurance and NLGIC, taking it to the next level

by diversifying its offering and expanding its reach even further. Liva will provide a holistic portfolio of innovative, smart and reliable solutions that blend local knowledge with global expertise to safeguard all aspects of people's lives. The new brand reinforces the company's purpose of instilling confidence in people to live the lives they want, well prepared

for the unexpected, by creating an ecosystem beyond insurance that has its customers' needs at its core.

NLGIC brings specialism in health and life insurance products as first and largest insurance company in Oman with a large network of sales and service touchpoints across the country, while Al Ahlia Insurance is a leading general insurer in Oman with a portfolio of award-winning products and services. The integration of the two companies' portfolios into the new entity Liva makes the new brand a strong multi-line insurer.

Over the next few weeks, a re-branding initiative is set to unfold across the products, branches, and offices, embracing the captivating new visual identity of Liva, characterised by its vibrant orange and white palette. Importantly, this transformation doesn't impact any customer existing policies or partner agreements – all aspects remain unchanged.

CBO



Treasury bills worth OMR30mn issued

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR30 million by way of allotting treasury bills.

The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR9 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.660 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.660 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.43214 per cent and 4.44726 per cent, respectively.

The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR9 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.660 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.660 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 5.19805 per cent and 5.26630 per cent, respectively. —**OMA**

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Future energy leaders to compete to find solutions for great energy challenges

Times News Service



LIFESTYLE

HOW TO
SET UP THE
ULTIMATE
WORKSTATION
FOR KIDS AT HOME

WANT TO HELP guarantee your child's academic success? While you can't control what goes on in the classroom, you can facilitate their study time at home by setting up an A+ workstation. Here's how:

1. Choose a location: Select a location that's well-lit, preferably with some natural light, and away from noise and distractions. Whether it's your child's bedroom or a corner of the dining area, the area should be large enough for all their supplies and tech to stay organized.

2. Use colour wisely: Research has shown that certain colours have the power to boost productivity and creativity or promote a sense of calm. Decorating the space with more could potentially help your student weather crunch periods with ease. You may also opt to color-code binders, dividers and other supplies by course-work so that your child can quickly identify the items they need.

3. Update tech: Equip the workstation with the latest technology and educational tools. For easy essay composition, your child's suite of devices should include a tablet or laptop and a printer. To get your student prepared for math and science classes, be sure to supply them with a graphing calculator featuring the latest capabilities. The fx9750GIII, for example, is not only stylishly available in trending colors, it's capable

of programming in CASIO Basic and MicroPython. Python files are easily stored and transferred via USB to a computer. With graph and statistical functions, exam compatibility mode and a suite of educational resources, your student will be well-prepared to take on all their STEM coursework and test prep.

4. Prevent clutter: Clutter can pile up all too easily, making it difficult to find notes and assignments. Keep the mess to a minimum with the addition of a few organisational tools. Hang a corkboard to post reminders and to-do lists. Add wall shelving or a sorting tray to keep papers filed by subject area or due date, and use small baskets or cups to collect erasers, paper clips and other small supplies. Finally, be sure the workstation has its own waste bin, so that items that are no longer needed can be efficiently tossed or recycled.

5. Consider ergonomics: Eliminate distractions by making sure the workstation is ergonomic-friendly and comfy. If your child sits at a desk, ensure their computer monitor is at eye level and that their feet touch the floor. Adjustable laptop tables can transform a makeshift work area on the couch or bed into a comfortable workstation. By setting up a dedicated homework area designed for productivity, you can help your student make the grade.

-StatePoint



Djokovic storms into quarters

The Serb records a comfortable win over Croatian Gojo to set up a last-8 clash with American Fritz

NEW YORK: Serbian Novak Djokovic enjoyed a smooth passage into the US Open quarter-finals as he won in straight sets to end Croatian qualifier Borna Gojo's surprise run on Sunday. Second seed Djokovic continued his bid for a record-equalling 24th major title with a 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 win in New York.

"I did well in the important moments and I'm pleased to get through in three sets," said three-time winner Djokovic. The 36-year-old Serb will play ninth seed Taylor Fritz, who is one of three American men in the quarter-finals.

Fritz, 25, won 7-6 (7-2), 6-4, 6-4 against Swiss qualifier Dominic Stricker, joining Frances Tiafoe and Ben Shelton in progressing on Sunday.

Tiafoe, 25, beat Australia's Rinky Hijikata 6-4 6-1 6-4 to set up a last-eight meeting with Shelton, guaranteeing at least one home player in the semi-finals.

Shelton, 20, beat 14th seed Tommy Paul 6-4 6-3 4-6 6-4 as three American men reached the quarter-finals for the first time since 2005.

Fritz, Tiafoe and Shelton are each bidding to become the first man from the host nation to win the singles title since Andy Roddick in 2003.

In order for Fritz to emulate Roddick, he will have to find a way past Djokovic first.

Djokovic reached a 57th major quarter-final, leaving him one adrift of Roger Federer's record in the Open era, with a routine victory over 105th-ranked Gojo.

"I knew Borna has a big game and is a big-shot player. One of the



Novak Djokovic



keys to the match was to reduce his serve and stop the aces," said Djokovic.

"I tried to manage my energy and focus on accuracy with my serve.

"The matches are obviously going to get tougher but I'm ready,"

Shelton hopes he can inspire young people to "develop a passion for tennis" after an impressive win over Paul which featured two 149mph serves.

The pair of aces were just short of the tournament-record 152mph thunderbolt which Andy Roddick hit on his way to the title 20 years ago.

"I'm not just a tennis player. I



Taylor Fritz

don't just put on a show on the court or win a lot of matches," Shelton said.

"I treat people the right way and make an impact on a lot of young kids.

"I hope there's a lot of young people in the crowd that develop a passion for tennis when they watch me play,"

On the 149mph serves, he add-

ed: "That's cool, but I'm also not out there to chase the miles per hour. I'm trying to effectively hold serve.

"It hurt me a little bit today hitting 149, 141 and then 149 again. I got broken in my next two games.

Sometimes when I'm chasing a number or I try to hit harder than is within myself, it messes up my rhythm." - Agencies

Defending champion Swiatek knocked out

NEW YORK: Iga Swiatek's defence of the US Open title was ended by an inspired performance from the huge-hitting Jelena Ostapenko in the last 16 on Sunday.

Polish top seed Swiatek lost 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 to Latvian 20th seed Ostapenko during Sunday's night session in New York. With her fearless and aggressive approach, Ostapenko hit 31 winners and forced Swiatek into a host of mistakes.

Ostapenko, who won her sole major at the 2017 French Open, will face American sixth seed Coco Gauff next.

Swiatek's 75-week streak as the women's world No.1 has been ended by the defeat, with Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka guaranteed to replace her after the US Open.

"I'm surprised that my level changed so drastically," said 22-year-old Swiatek.

Swiatek had lost all three of her previous meetings against Ostapenko, but the pair had not played since February 2022 - after which the Pole embarked on a transformational 37-match winning run.

"I always expect a tough battle against Iga, she is such a great player and very consistent," said Ostapenko.

Gauff underlined her credentials as one of the US Open title favourites with a gutsy victory over Caroline Wozniacki to reach the quarter-finals. The 19-year-old American had to come from a break down in the third set to win 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

The victory also ended Wozniacki's extraordinary comeback run after a three-



Jelena Ostapenko



Iga Swiatek

and-a-half-year absence from the sport.

Wozniacki retired three years ago to start a family and was heavily pregnant with her second child during last year's US Open.

However, she returned to the WTA Tour last month, with Gauff remarking it is like the Dane "never left". "The level that she's played today is really amazing," Gauff said.

The former world No.1 - a two-time US Open runner-up - said afterwards she was exactly where she wants to be. "There's a lot of positives to take with me going forward. I'm on the right track," Wozniacki said.

Elsewhere on Sunday, 10th seed Karolina Muchova set up a quarter-final encounter with Sorana Cirstea of Romania after defeating China's Wang Xinyu 6-3 5-7 6-1.

For world No.30 Cirstea, who beat Switzerland's Belinda Bencic 6-3, 6-3, it will be a first appearance in the last eight of a Grand Slam since the 2009 French Open.

LA LIGA

Late goal comes to Barca rescue



MADRID: A late penalty from Robert Lewandowski secured a 2-1 victory for Barcelona against Osasuna in La Liga on Sunday night.

Lewandowski netted the winning goal after a minimal contact from Osasuna defender Alejandro Catana, who received a red card following a VAR review.

Barcelona initially led just before halftime with a header from Jules Kounde after a corner kick, although Osasuna claimed he had fouled a defender in the process. Osasuna's Chimy Avila, a second-half substitute, leveled the score with a brilliant curling shot in the 76th minute.

However, Lewandowski's

subsequent penalty ensured Barcelona's ascent to third place in La Liga.

Girona climbed to second place following a 1-0 victory over Las Palmas. Striker Portu, who rejoined the club recently, netted the match's sole goal in the final moments after two of Girona's goals were disallowed by VAR.

Mallorca and Athletic Club ended in a goalless draw on Sunday. While Athletic maintained more possession, Mallorca posed threats from set pieces.

The fixture between Atletico Madrid and Sevilla was postponed due to anticipated heavy rainfall in Madrid on Sunday afternoon. - Xinhua

PREMIER LEAGUE



Gunners stun Man United

LONDON: Arsenal scored twice in stoppage time to secure a dramatic 3-1 victory over Manchester United at Emirates Stadium on Sunday.

In a chaotic finale to a largely scrappy game, United first thought they had snatched three points only to see Alejandro Garnacho's 88th-minute finish ruled out for offside by the video assistant referee with the score 1-1.

The drama then switched to the other end in eight added minutes as Declan Rice's deflected shot gave Arsenal the lead before substitute Gabriel Jesus raced

clear to wrap up the win as the stadium exploded in elation.

United had taken the lead in the 27th minute when Christian Eriksen's outstanding pass played in Marcus Rashford, who cut inside to send an unerring right-foot drive past Arsenal keeper Aaron Ramsdale.

The Gunners, who had already spurned a golden chance when the struggling Kai Havertz miskicked with the goal at his mercy, were level almost instantly when captain Martin Odegaard was given too much space and sent an emphatic

finish into the bottom corner.

In an encounter that rarely hit the heights despite lots of effort, Arsenal - who had seen a penalty over-turned by the VAR after referee Anthony Taylor originally ruled Havertz had been fouled - missed a glorious late opportunity when Bukayo Saka shot straight at Andre Onana.

United saw celebrations cut short with two minutes left when substitute Garnacho raced clear to score, but the VAR ruled he was just offside - opening the door for Arsenal to produce two devastating blows. - Agencies

LIGUE 1

Mbappe scores twice in facile PSG victory



PARIS: Kylian Mbappe scored twice as Paris Saint-Germain increased the pressure on Lyon boss Laurent Blanc with a 4-1 victory on Sunday.

Mbappe netted an early penalty after Corentin Tolisso fouled Manuel Ugarte, and Achraf Hakimi doubled the lead after a one-two with Ousmane Dembele.

Marco Asensio and Mbappe gave PSG a 4-0 lead - the first time Lyon trailed by four goals at half-time in a league game since 1966. Tolisso netted a consolation penalty as Lyon avoided a thorough thrashing. Second-placed PSG are unbeaten this season, while Lyon remain bottom on one point from four games. Only 11 players have scored more Ligue 1 goals than Mbappe's 169. - Agencies

SERIE A

Inter rout Fiorentina; Juve triumph

ROME: Inter Milan maintained their flawless record in Serie A, overpowering Fiorentina 4-0 on Sunday while Juventus secured a 2-0 victory against Empoli on the road.

Inter, having started the new season with two wins and no goals conceded, saw coach Simone Inzaghi deploy a 3-5-2 formation for Sunday's match. Newcomer Benjamin Pavard started on the bench.

Marcus Thuram was active from the outset and eventually got his maiden goal for Inter in the 23rd minute, capitalising on a cross from Federico Dimarco. The Frenchman broke the dead-



lock with a powerful header.

The Nerazzurri soon doubled their lead when Thuram's pass found Lautaro Martinez, who confidently found the back of the net. The hosts further extended their lead in the 58th minute. After Thuram was fouled in the box, Hakan Calhanoglu confidently

converted the resulting penalty. Juan Cuadrado later assisted Lautaro, who rounded off the scoring for Inter.

With this victory, Inter sit atop the table with nine points, edging out city rivals AC Milan on goal difference. The two teams are set to clash in the next round following the international break.

In another Sunday fixture, Juventus overcame Empoli 2-0, even with Dusan Vlahovic's missed penalty, thanks to goals from Danilo and Federico Chiesa. In other matches, Torino edged past Genoa 1-0 with a late goal, while Lecce convincingly defeated Salernitana 2-0. - Xinhua

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

Messi helps Miami defeat Los Angeles

WASHINGTON: Lionel Messi provided two assists as Inter Miami kept alive their Major League Soccer (MLS) playoff hopes with a 3-1 away win over defending champions Los Angeles FC on Sunday. Facundo Farias put the visitors ahead. Jordi Alba doubled the lead just after halftime when he ran onto Messi's pass before beating goalkeeper John McCarthy with a delicate chip.

Inter Miami were in inspired form and Messi was again the creator as he streamed forward from the halfway circle before



finding Leonardo Campana, who opened up his body before sending a first-time effort into the far corner. Ryan Hollingshead pulled a goal back for the hosts by heading home in the first minute of stoppage time after Carlos Vela's corner but Inter held on to win.

BUNDESLIGA

Leipzig upset Union Berlin

BERLIN: Ten-man Union Berlin suffered its first loss of the season after Benjamin Sesko delivered a late brace, sealing a 3-0 victory for Leipzig on the road at the close of the Bundesliga's third round on Sunday.

The Red Bulls started the second half aggressively as. Xavi Simons hit the ball past Ronnow from the edge of the box into the top right corner to put the team ahead and late goals from Sesko sealed the win. Berlin's Volland was sent off for a harsh foul on Mohamed Simakan.

In another match, Eintracht Frankfurt drew 1-1 with Cologne.

Elevate your drive with luxurious Changan CS75 Plus crossover

Embodying opulent design, plush interiors, and cutting-edge technology, the Changan CS75 Plus has captured the hearts of car enthusiasts in Oman and worldwide

MUSCAT: Experience the extraordinary world of automotive luxury and innovation with the remarkable Changan CS75 Plus crossover. Boasting a commanding 2.0 L turbo engine that unleashes 224 hp and smoothly paired with an 8-speed AT, this crossover guarantees an exhilarating driving experience like no other.

Embodying opulent design, plush interiors, and cutting-edge technology, the Changan CS75 Plus has captured the hearts of car enthusiasts in Oman and worldwide.

A spokesperson for Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC (AGAE), said, “Step into a realm of ground-breaking features, flawless aesthetics, seamless functionality, and remarkable stability, as Changan unravels the allure of this extraordinary vehicle. From its captivating design to its lavish interior, every drive is an unforgettable experience that elevates your adventures to new heights. The intelligent features integrated into this vehicle are designed to enhance your confidence and sophistication, ensuring each ride is a testament to the cutting-edge and state-of-the-art technology meticulously crafted



within the CS75 Plus. Get ready to redefine your driving experience and embrace the ultimate blend of elegance and performance.”

Luxury and sport variants

This compact crossover, available in both luxury and sport variants, presents a plethora of special features that will elevate your driving experience. The luxury variant, in particular, is enhanced with fully automatic parking, adding an extra touch of convenience to your journeys. Step into the future of automotive excellence with the Changan CS75 Plus, where sophistication meets innovation for an unparalleled driving sensation.

Changan CS75 Plus 2WD is a dynamic powerhouse with a sleeker, sloped roofline and an impressive boost in power. Beneath its hood lies a formidable 2.0-litre turbocharged 4-cylinder engine, expertly paired with an 8-speed automatic transmission, generating an astounding 224 horsepower and a robust 360 Nm of torque. This well-proportioned

crossover boasts a wheelbase of 2710 mm, while measuring 4700 mm in length, 1865 mm in width, and 1710 mm in height. Get ready to experience a harmonious blend of style and performance in the Changan CS75 Plus 2WD, setting new standards in the world of driving excellence.

Standard features in the CS75 Plus include power windows, central locking, cruise control, dual-zone auto A/C, 8 speakers, multifunctional steering wheel, USB+AUX ports, 12-inch screen, Bluetooth, 360 camera, leather ventilated seats, sunroof, fog lamps, parking sensors LED headlamps, panoramic roof, keyless entry and start, and 19-inch wheels. Safety features includes dual front, side and curtain airbags, ABS, and hill assist. Its Blue Core Powertrain Technology, based on the principles of power, clean and quiet, provides owners a highly efficient and energy saving performance. CS75 Plus features a more streamlined body with flowing lines and geometric patterns,

creating the overall appearance of a vehicle from the future.

Sophistication in every drive

To instill the confidence and sophistication in every drive, CS75 Plus offers a range of intelligent driving technologies and advanced safety features. To create a premium drive experience, CS75 Plus seamlessly integrates luxurious interior with high-tech convenience features, coupled with ample space.

Changan CS75 Plus 2.0 T B AT Luxury

Changan CS75 Plus 2.0 T B AT Luxury includes the features of CS75 Plus 2.0 T 8 AT Sport features. Its exterior boasts of piercing front position headlamp, adaptive high and low beam, ORVM with memory and puddle lamps. Its interior features multi colour ambient lighting, front seats ventilation, driver seat with memory and luggage cover. Its safety attributes intelligent adaptive cruise control, 360 Camera (HD) with 3D View, blind spot

detection, rear approaching alarm, reverse auxiliary alarm, lane departure warning, rain sensor wiper and seat belt pretensioners.

Intelligent Adaptive Cruise Control

Intelligent Adaptive Cruise Control provides a safer and more pleasant driving experience. IACC facilitates smart driving features including heavy traffic assisted driving, lane keep assist, automatic deceleration during turns, intelligent speed limit assist, and voice-activated cruise speed setting.

The 12 inch LCD touch screen in the middle displays a 360 degree camera view around the car. When the option is clicked a 3D model of the car is shown and within the screen itself you may rotate the car and view the surroundings.

Reverse auxiliary alarm

The model can avoid or ease the collision by alarm and auxiliary braking. The car detects blocks and sends a visual and an audible alarm to notify you.

In a scenario where you brake suddenly and the car behind you is unaware of this and is approaching you with speed. Your car detects the challenge and alerts you in the screen in front of you and the rear lights of your car start blinking/ flashing in order to capture the driver's (Behind) attention.

There are two options for this, the driver either sits in the car or he leaves the car. Under both the options the car parks itself by using sensors and by scanning the nearby areas.

Infotainment showcases full LCD IC, eight Speakers, trip recorder with SD Card Slot and Qi-bla. Comfort factors include seat belt height adjustable remote key - window close, all windows - one button up down, auto IRVM and dual zone AC.

Changan CS75 Plus 2.0 T 8 AT Sport

The exterior features of Changan CS75 Plus 2.0 T 8 AT SPORT includes 19” dual tone alloy wheels, LED headlamps, front fog lights with cornering, panoramic sunroof, ORVM - electrically adjustable, folding and heating, rear led tail-lamps, quad exhaust pipes. The interior has sport seats with two tone interior (black & red), electrically adjustable front seats, drive mode (normal, eco, sport), leather steering wheel, soft leather dashboard, multifunction steering wheel.

Safety features include front and curtain airbags, ABS, E80 +TCS+ESC+HHC, hill descent control, auto hold, TPMS, 360 camera, adaptive cruise control, automatic emergency brake, front collision warning and electronic parking brake. Infotainment element has 7-LCD instrument cluster, 12” infotainment screen, high performance audio system with 6 speakers, navigation, mirror link - Android & Apple. The model offers electric tailgate, remote control engine start/stop, push button start/stop, rear AC vents, keyless entry and auto AC.

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ROUND-UP

ACQUISITION

Arcapita acquires DataFlow Group, largest provider of credential verification services in GCC



MUSCAT: Arcapita Group Holdings Limited (“Arcapita”), the global alternative investment firm, announced its acquisition of the DataFlow Group, a leading international provider of credential verification services, from EQT Private Equity.

The acquisition represents yet another milestone in Arcapita’s growth strategy, having completed five direct investments and eight add-on acquisitions in the business services space, in the US and GCC, over the past five years.

DataFlow Verification Services Limited is the GCC’s leading provider of regulation-mandated pre-employment primary source verification (PSV) services, with over 850 employees across nine countries, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and a global network

of more than 160,000 issuing authorities across 190 countries. The company’s workflow and system integrations with issuing authorities and GCC regulators has made it the service provider-of-choice in many markets resulting in long-standing client relationships. While DataFlow has historically focused on the healthcare segment, the company has begun expanding into verticals such as education, engineering, work visa, and sports, and has secured strategic wins in these sectors.

Hisham Al Raei, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Arcapita, commented, “Arcapita’s private equity strategy within the business services sector is to target companies that deliver essential and mission-critical B2B services. Arcapita targets companies that are asset

light, technology-enabled, and have strong management teams. Our investment in The DataFlow Group plays a key role in this strategy, while further building on our track record in the sector. We look forward to working closely with DataFlow’s management team to drive further growth across multiple markets, leveraging our global expertise in the sector.”

Yousif Al Abdulla, Managing Director and Head of MENA Investment at Arcapita, also commented, “The DataFlow Group enjoys a dominant market position, underlined by an unrivalled competitive moat, as evidenced by its consistent sales growth. We are excited about the prospects of this partnership and the capabilities of DataFlow’s management team, and are confident in the long-term

growth potential of the business in the GCC region and beyond.

Simon Griffiths, Partner within EQT Private Equity’s Advisory Team, said, “We are pleased to have found a good partner for DataFlow for its next phase of the exciting journey. The Company has transformed significantly and become a digitally enabled, leading credential service provider. We are proud of the accomplishments achieved by an outstanding management team led by Sunil Kumar, especially the swift actions in response to COVID-19 and its impressive outperformance during this challenging period.

“We thank Sunil and the entire management team, all the employees and the board for their vision, dedication and contribution. We are confident that Dataflow will

continue to be successful under its new ownership.”

Sunil Kumar, CEO of DataFlow, said, “We look forward to joining forces with Arcapita for our next phase of growth and transformation, where their investment will provide The DataFlow Group with enhanced access to cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence, blockchain, and machine learning, enabling us to serve our stakeholders better and accelerate our growth.

“We have solid growth targets for the coming years, and Arcapita’s track record, coupled with a strong leadership team, will enable us to improve our services to meet our clients’ needs best and drive transformation. We thank EQT for supporting The DataFlow Group in reaching this growth phase.”

Chery Automobile officially partners with Saud Bahwan Group

Mohammed Saud Bahwan, Chairman, Saud Bahwan Group, asserted confidence in Chery’s brand concept and product strength



MUSCAT: Recently, Chery Automobile signed a distribution agreement with Oman’s renowned Corporate – Saud Bahwan Group.

Attending the signing ceremony were Zhang Guibing (President, Chery International), Qin Chao (Vice President), Shen Xiantian (General Manager, Chery MENA), Mohammed Saud Bahwan (Chairman, Saud Bahwan Group) and Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan (Managing Director– Corporate, Saud Bahwan Group).

At the event, Zhang Guibing placed high hopes on Chery’s return to Oman’s vibrant automotive market and said that, with the iteration of the technology and the expansion of its global business, Chery will provide Oman’s market with

more competitive products and it is believed that this cooperation will achieve remarkable results.

Mohammed Saud Bahwan, Chairman, Saud Bahwan Group, asserted confidence in Chery’s brand concept and product strength. He said that in the future, the group will fully support Chery in quickly opening up Oman’s auto market utilising the group’s various strengths.

As one of the largest business houses in Oman, Saud Bahwan Group has an impressive portfolio of globally renowned automotive brands. The group also has a very strong sales and after-sales service network throughout Oman, and has built a strong reputation for offering some of the

finest customer experiences.

After 26 years of development, Chery adheres to the brand concept of technology, green, family and companionship.

With the corporate vision of building an auto brand with international competitiveness and influence, Chery has ranked first in China’s auto exports for 20 consecutive years and its brand strength has continued to rise.

From January to June 2023, the total export volume of Chery Automobiles is 394,000. Up to now, Chery’s cumulative global users have exceeded 12 million, and overseas users have exceeded 2 million. Chery’s auto products have won the title of “Most Popular Chinese Automobile Brand” in

many countries around the world.

By establishing a partnership with Saud Bahwan Group, Chery Automobile will not only further expand its overseas sales network, but will also promote localised operations with the help of the group’s experience.

In the future, Saud Bahwan Group will establish Chery showrooms and after-sales service agencies in major cities in Oman to promote enriching customer experiences. Chery is expected to grow its presence to become one of the top brands in Oman in the coming years and strengthening local consumers’ awareness of Chinese brands further fulfilling the mission of Chinese brands going global.

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Opening children’s account made easy through ahlilbank’s mobile banking application

MUSCAT: As part of its commitment to increasing its diverse portfolio of banking products and provide innovative solutions, ahlilbank is the first bank in the Sultanate of Oman to introduce opening children’s savings accounts through its mobile banking app. This comes as part of the bank’s efforts to facilitate its operations digitally and to making the banking experience easier and more accessible to its customers.



This new feature has been designed to meet the customers’ needs, as it seamlessly integrates modern technology with the bank’s extensive expertise to provide a unique and rewarding experience. The user-friendly interface has been crafted to allow users to effortlessly open their children’s account instantly through mobile devices. These easy and secure steps will enable parents to manage their children’s financial future from the comfort and safety of their homes with utmost ease and security.

Taher Al Balushi, General Manager - Strategy & Transformation and Project Management at ahlilbank said, “At ahlilbank, we strive to keep up with our customers’ requirements by devising innovative methods and digital solutions to serve and meet their diverse banking needs. Today, digitisation has become an integral part of the banking sector’s demands, and this is where our role comes into play in responding to the sector’s evolving landscape. We aim to provide banking services that align with the principles of sustainability, firmly believing that we are moving for-

ward on the right path to realise our vision to transform the banking experience.”

In this regard, Hassan Al Zaaib, Head - Digital & Alternative Channels, said, “Offering convenience and innovation for our customers has always been at the forefront at ahlilbank. We are thrilled to unveil this feature on the mobile banking app, another first in the Sultanate. With a deep commitment to enhancing our customer’s experience, we empower them to carry out their banking at their convenience. With innovative solutions in the banking sector, we aim to simplify the financial journeys of our customers and their children.”

ahlilbank continues to deliver innovative products and services that suit the evolving needs of its customers. Providing secure and convenient banking experiences, the bank ensures that it exceeds customer expectations and delivers a holistic banking experience for all age groups in Oman. With the children’s savings account, ahlilbank will enable a generation of financially savvy individuals who will be well-equipped to navigate their futures.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Alizz Islamic Bank joins hands with Children First Association



MUSCAT: As part of a long-term strategic partnership, Alizz Islamic Bank is joining hands with the Children First Association to support the upcoming conference and exhibition which will be held at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre from September 25 to 27.

Aligned with its ‘Alizz Cares’ initiative, Alizz Islamic Bank is unwavering in its commitment to fostering sustainable social and economic development within the Sultanate of Oman. Guided by the overarching framework of ‘We Care,’ the Bank is on a mission to enhance the quality of life for future generations.

A momentous Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was formally signed at The Children’s Public Library, where Ali Al Mani, Chief Executive Officer of Alizz Islamic Bank, and Her Highness Sayyida Dr Muna bint Fahad bin Mahmoud Al Said, Chairperson of The Children First Association, solidified this partnership. Esteemed representatives from both organisations were present to witness this significant occasion, which underpins a united pursuit of common objectives concerning the welfare of children in Oman.

Commenting on this pivotal partnership, Her Highness

Sayyida Dr. Muna bint Fahad bin Mahmoud Al Said, Chairperson of the Children First Association, stated, “Investing in children is an investment in the future of Oman. It is our collective responsibility to nurture and provide a sustainable environment where they can flourish. This partnership reinforces our unwavering commitment to securing a brighter future for every child, offering them opportunities and comprehensive support throughout their journey.”

Ali Al Mani, CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank, further emphasised, “At Alizz Islamic Bank, we recognise that children are the cornerstone

of Oman’s progress. By collaborating with dedicated partners, we aspire to achieve shared objectives, particularly in the realms of children and youth empowerment. Our commitment to supporting impactful initiatives remains steadfast.”

The Children First Association, founded in 2009, serves as a vital platform for addressing children’s issues within Omani society. Its core mission is to provide support, guidance, and advocacy to enhance children’s quality of life, safeguard their needs, uphold their rights, and empower them to realise their full potential.

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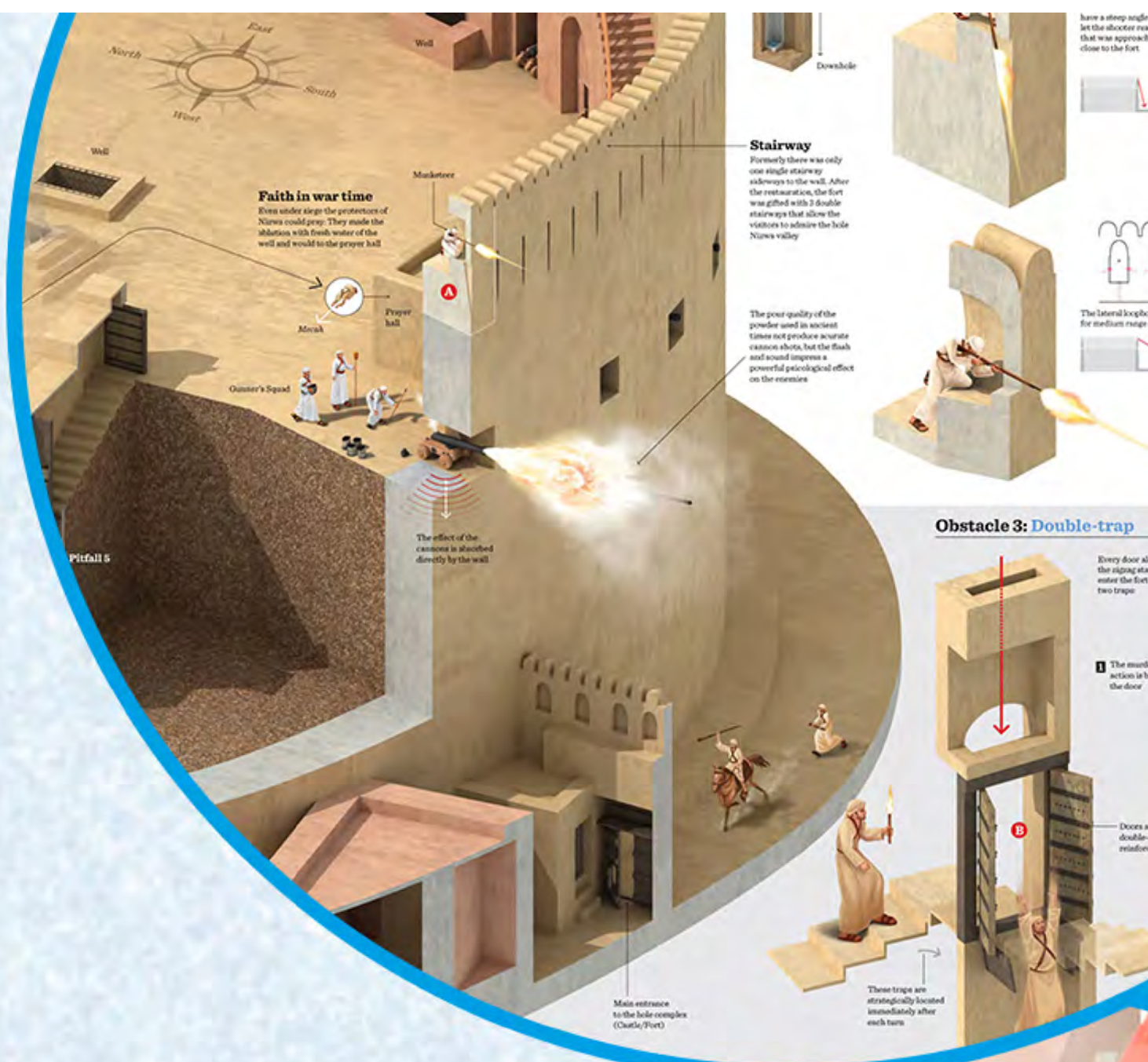
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