



HM RECEIVES THANKS CABLE

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received a cable of thanks from King Abdullah II of Jordan in response to His Majesty's greetings cable on the occasion of his accession to the throne anniversary. In the cable, King Abdullah II expressed his appreciation for His Majesty's heartfelt sentiments which reflect the strength of relations binding Oman and Jordan. He also prayed to Allah the Almighty to protect His Majesty and for the Omani people to achieve aspirations of further progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty. — **ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 49 No. 85 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group





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OMAN METEOROLOGY

Temperatures likely to touch 50 degrees Celsius

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Temperatures are expected to touch 50 degrees Celsius during the next 48 hours in the Sultanate of Oman, said the Oman Meteorology in its forecast.

In a statement, the Oman Meteorology said: "There are chances of a noticeable rise in temperatures from Monday through Wednesday, July 1-3, 2024, ranging from the end of the forties to the fifties, especially in the desert areas and some coastal areas of the Sea of Oman."

Sunstroke, heat exhaustion, and other symptoms associated with high temperatures are common, since many jobs and field activities require workers to be exposed to sunlight and high tem-



peratures. To reduce and avoid sunstroke, the doctors have advised to take precautions.

Avoid exposure to direct sunlight, especially during the afternoon and organising and specifying working hours so that they

include rest periods when temperatures reach their peak

It is preferable to train workers and supervisors on how to react to high temperature situations and drink good amounts of water to avoid dehydration.

STATE, SHURA COUNCILS HOLD JOINT SESSION TO DISCUSS DRAFT LAWS

The disputed articles in draft bills are 'Bank Deposits Protection Law', 'The Law Regulating Trade in Wildlife' and 'The Media Law'



MUSCAT: The State Council and the Shura Council on Monday held a joint session during which they discussed reports forwarded by their respective committees on articles of dispute.

The disputed articles in draft bills are 'Bank Deposits Protection Law', 'The Law Regulating Trade in Wildlife' and 'The Media Law'.

The joint session was held in implementation of Article (49) of the Law of the Council of Oman, said Sheikh Abdulmalik Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council.

Sheikh Abdulmalik said that holding the first joint session of the Council of Oman comes in accordance with Article 49 and a continuation of the joint efforts between the two councils in the event of a difference of opinion regarding draft laws referred by the government to come up with a unified vision of joint work.

He stressed for the harmony between the State Council, the Shura Council and the Council of Ministers for constructive cooperation.

He added that the State and Shura Council had previously discussed a number of draft laws, including the 'Bank Deposits Protection Law', the 'Law Regulating Wildlife Trade', and the 'Media Law', and there was unanimity on many articles, but to sort out the differences joint committees were formed that included a number of members who reached an agreement on all those articles

of dispute.

Khalid Ahmed Al Saadi, Secretary-General of the State Council, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the "Joint Committee" (comprising members from both councils) reached full consensus about the draft bill of the 'Bank Deposits Protection Law', with 11 articles passed in one go, without objection by either council.

He added that the members of the two councils voted 'for' the opinion of the Joint Committee on the draft bill of 'The Law Regulating Trade in Wildlife' by a rate of 90 percent. **>A3**

GAZA DEATH TOLL

as of July 1, 2024



Deaths
37,900

Injured
87,060

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Holy Prophet Hijra holiday on July 7

1 July 7 has been declared as an official holiday for employees of the public and private sectors on the occasion of the Holy Prophet's Hijra Anniversary and the advent of the new Hijri year 1446 AH. **>A2**

OMAN Pact to develop Majlis Al Jinn Cave

2 The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism signed yesterday a usufruct agreement with Omran Group to develop Majlis Al Jinn Cave in the Wilayat of Quriyat. **>A5**

OMAN Ain Darbat is a popular tourist site



3 Ain Darbat is a popular tourism site located to the east of the Wilayat of Taqah, on the main road leading to the Wilayat of Mirbat in Dhofar Governorate. It is distinguished by its picturesque view and pristine natural surroundings. **>A4**

TALENTED DRIVER

Golden show by Al Faisal Al Zubair and his team-mates at Spa

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The iconic circuit at Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium seems to be a happy hunting ground for Oman's talented driver, Al Faisal Al Zubair.

The 26-year-old Omani tasted his first success in a GT race way back in June 2021 and then earlier this year in May had claimed another victory in the GT Open 500 round of the International GT Open Championship.

Following the victory in the GT 500 in May, Al Faisal said that it "would be great to have a win in the main race at the 24 Hours of Spa."

The Omani fulfilled his dream

on Sunday as he along with the other three drivers for the Al Manar Racing by Getspeed - Austrian Dominik Baumann, Canadian Mikaël Grenier and Swiss team debutant Philip Ellis - finished the demanding CrowdStrike 24 Hours of Spa in seventh overall and claimed a stunning outright victory in the Gold Cup category.

After starting the second round of the 2024 Fanatec GT World Challenge powered by AWS Endurance Cup from fourth place in the Gold category, the team managed its strategy to perfection with heavy rain dampening spirits during the night session.

Grenier drove the final stint and



stayed clear of any late trouble to take the chequered flag well clear of Gold Cup runners-up Saintéloc Racing after 477 laps of racing on one of Europe's most demanding race circuits.

The Comtoy Racing Aston Martin Vantage AMR GT3 Evo, crewed by Mattia Drudi, Nicki Thiim and Marco Sorensen, claimed a dramatic outright victory after a stationery Lamborghini blocked access to the pit lane for over a minute and dropped the long-time leading AF Corse Ferrari down to an eventual second place when Alessandro Pier Guidi was obstructed from entering the pits. **>A8**



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CDAA approves its operational plans to serve Khareef visitors

The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority calls on visitors to follow safety guidelines while visiting the governorate

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) confirmed its readiness to provide services to citizens, residents and visitors of the Dhofar Governorate during the Khareef season 2024.

The CDAA said that it had approved its operational plans for the Dhofar Khareef season for 2024, which included strengthening its current centres and deployment



on the roads leading to Dhofar Governorate in Al Dakhiliyah, Al Dhahirah, and Al Wusta governorates to deal with reports received by the operation, civil defence and ambulance centres in the governorates.

Two additional junctions were added on the coastal road linking the South Al Sharqiyah Governorate

with the Al Wusta Governorate, reaching Dhofar Governorate, and five other junctions on the road from the Al Dakhiliyah and Al Dhahirah Governorates leading to the Dhofar Governorate to provide services to the motorists.

The CDAA called on institutions, companies, property owners and buildings to adhere to



civil protection requirements by performing the maintenance of facilities, following safety procedures and other safety aspects that limit the occurrence of accidents.

The Authority's civil protection efforts will also be doubled by inspecting facilities, monitoring violations and taking appropriate measures in this regard.

The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority continuously seeks to raise awareness among all segments of society by using its official platforms on social media and other outlets, distributing awareness brochures, holding events, and deploying field teams in various locations to raise awareness and provide guidance, while

appreciating the role played by various media outlets in enhancing preventive awareness among various segments of society.

The Authority calls on visitors to follow safety guidelines while visiting the governorate, prepare well for the trip, maintain the vehicle, prepare a first aid kit, ensure that the fire extinguisher is in good condition, identify the locations of rest stops and vehicle fueling stations on the trip route, choose the appropriate time to move and stop for a rest in case of feeling tired and exhausted, and adhere to safety rules.

The Authority also stresses the necessity of following safety instructions while staying in the Dhofar Governorate and not swimming in undesignated places such as (springs, water pools) and beaches due to the high sea waves and water currents that increase in intensity with the entry of the fall season, and staying away from dangerous sites, waterfalls, and dangerous heights. Monitor children and do not leave them alone in vehicles, to ensure everyone's safety.

THE ANIMAL WORLD

ROHM summer camp's focus on nature, environment

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Since June 23, the Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) has been leading its annual summer camp, with this year's theme centred around the Animal World. This exciting initiative features seven dynamic workshops that will culminate in a spectacular performance titled Animal World - Wild on Stage! on July 4 at 5pm in the main ROHM theatre.

Designed to inspire children through various musical and artistic disciplines, this year's camp places a strong emphasis on nature and the environment.

Children aged 7 to 14, living in Muscat, have the chance to participate in workshops including drama, singing, circus, theatre-dance, drums, props, and technology.

These sessions are taught by an impressive lineup of international and local educators under the



guidance of the director, Alessandra Premoli.

Experts from Italy and Morocco are leading the music, circus, and dance theatre workshops, while local educators such as YouThink-

ers for drama, tunes for drums, and Mohamed Al Sulaimi for Technology bring their expertise to the remaining workshops.

In collaboration with be'ah - Oman Environmental Services



Holding Company, the props workshop aims to educate children about recycling and the environmental impact of our actions, aligning with the overarching theme of respect for

nature.

Partnering with Oman's leading environmental company underscores the importance of providing children with quality workshops led by trained experts.

As the director of this year's summer camp, Alessandra Premoli, explains: "We are in the second week of our workshops, and it has been wonderful to see the children quickly grasping new skills and deepening their understanding of theatre. Working with children from various ages and backgrounds has been an enriching experience. This year's theme, focusing on the animal world, has captured their imaginations and provided an engaging educational journey. I am looking forward to the final performance on July 4."

The culmination of our two-week programme will be a grand performance on July 4 at 5pm Directed by Alessandra Premoli and the educators, Animal World - Wild on Stage! will showcase the talents and creativity of the children, developed through their participation in the workshops.



Tender Announcement

Financial Services Authority announces the following tender :-

Tender name	Tender Number	Description	Release the RFP	Last date for Purchase of RFP	Last date of Submitting the proposal	Tender fees in OMR
FSA Network Infrastructure Upgrade	FSA 4/2024	Delivering, mounting, configuring and migrating all equipment, software and licenses (access switches, wireless controller, wireless access points, call manger,virtual server hardware, storage, backup solution ..)	2 July 2024	11 July 2024 03:00 PM	08 August 2024 01:00 PM	125 /- OMR Non Refundable

■ Specialized companies interester in participating in the above tender must deposit the tender fee into bank account, and submit payment receipt of the tender along with a copy of the commercial registration certificate and the contact details of the authorized person to the Services & Public Relations Department e-mail : Admin@fsa.gov.om. hence, we shall provide you with Tender document by e-mail.

■ All participating companies must provide a bank guarantee, issued by locally registered bank not less than 2 % of the tender value adressed to FSA , the bond shall be valid for 90 days from the submission of the proposal.

■ All bids shall be submitted in tender box at financial affairs department.

■ FSA is not obliged to accept the lowest bid or any other bid without any justifiable reasons.

Bank account information :-
Name of beneficiary : Financial Services Authority
Account no : 0423019706330018
Bank : Bank Muscat- Corporate Branch- CBD
SWIFT code : BMUSOMRXXXX
Please attach a copy of the deposit receipt

For inquiries, please contact :-
E-mail : Admin@fsa.gov.om
Telephone Number : 24823133 , 24823299, 24823268
Timing : 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Workdays : Sunday to Thursday.



HIJRI YEAR 1446 AH

Holiday for public, private sectors announced

MUSCAT: Sunday, 7 July 2024, has been announced as an official holiday for employees of the public and private sectors on the occasion of the Holy Prophet's Hijra Anniversary and the advent of the new Hijri year 1446 AH.

The Ministry of Labour pointed out that employers may agree on terms to engage employees on

the said holiday—if deemed necessary due to the nature of their work—provided they compensate the workers for the holiday.

-ONA



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MILITARY DELEGATION

Saudi team visits Joint Command Staff College



MUSCAT: A delegation from the Command and Staff College of the National Defence University at the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on Monday visited the Joint Command and Staff College.

The visiting delegation was headed by Air Commodore Misfer Said Al Shamrani, Commander of the KSA's Command and Staff College.

Upon the guests' arrival at the college, they were greeted by Brigadier Saif Hamad Al Yousifi, Commandant of the Joint Command and Staff College.

Presentation

During the visit, the guests watched a presentation about the Joint Command and Staff College and its curricula. They also toured the college's facilities and departments. -ONA

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New guide to help in designing public policies

The ‘Public Policy Preparation Guide’ provides policymakers with a roadmap for drafting public policies in Oman

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Economy on Monday held an introductory workshop on the guide designed for preparing public policies. The workshop was attended by representatives of 46 institutions.

The “Public Policy Preparation Guide” provides policymakers with a roadmap for drafting public policies in Oman.

It covers the stages of preparation, analysis, implementation, review and assessment of public policies. These steps are based on a professional reference that responds to principles, methodologies, technical tools and frame-



works necessary for ensuring the soundness, applicability and effectiveness of public policies.

The guide addresses public sector senior managers and experts tasked with developing and designing policies, in addition to researchers, analysts, public policy pioneers and all those interested in the process of public policy-making.

Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, stressed the significance of professionally devising public policies in a manner that keeps pace with rapid developments in economic, social, political and security domains in countries around the world.

The overall objective of government institutions (when drafting public policies) is to improve the economy, enhance performance, channel development efforts and achieve balance, sustainability and optimisation of resources and capabilities, the minister explained.

For their part, specialists at the Economy Ministry made a visual presentation to introduce the rationale of public policy, as well as salient features and methodologies of writing the script of public policy, the cycle of its endorsement and models of the ‘policy paper’.

-ONA



Consensus on draft bills achieved

<FROM A1 As for the draft bill on “The Media Law”, points of dispute were cleared and the two sides reached 100 percent consensus ‘for’ the opinion of the Joint Committee, Al Saadi affirmed.

Sheikh Ahmed Mohammed Al Nadabi, Secretary-General of the Shura Council, said that during the session, the two councils’ Joint Committee discussed the articles of dispute and reached consensus about them, after the members of the two councils elaborated on them and took vote accordingly.

He indicated that the joint committee discussed all the articles of disagreement between the two councils and reached consensus on all the articles. Therefore, a vote was taken on Monday on all the articles recommended by the joint committee between the two councils, and the interventions and observations were also voted on by the members. -ONA



Pre Qualification Notice for Outdoor Billboard Advertising Vide Digital Media

Oman Flour Mills SAOG, (OFM) invites specialize companies to participate in the pre-qualification process to invest in digital infrastructure at Oman Flour Mills locations based at Muscat on a revenue sharing basis as per the requirements below.

Mandatory Requirements:

- a. Experience and Reputation
- b. Strategy and Planning
- c. Advertising and Promotions
- d. Quality of proposed Screens, Equipment & Infrastructure

Eligibility Criteria for Commercial Bidding:

- a. Registration Grade: First or Excellent
- b. Oman Chamber Certificate
- c. Company Registration Certificate (CR)
- d. VAT Certificate & Tax Card Certificate
- e. Company's Profile
- f. Financial stability

Brief Scope of Services:

Oman Flour Mills has identified two strategic locations in Muscat for generating income through digital outdoor advertisements: the Feed Mill at Darat Entry and the Silo at Sultan Qaboos Port. The selected bidder will be responsible for the supply, installation, operation, and maintenance of the digital infrastructure, including screens and technology, aligning with campaign objectives. The selected bidders must develop a devoted customer following using data analytics for targeted advertising and propose innovative revenue techniques. Technical specifications and comprehensive details of the infrastructure, including hardware, connectivity, and maintenance, must be shared. Additionally, the selected bidder will manage the content management system, handle scheduling and ad material, ensure compliance with regulations, and provide free advertisement slots for OFM's brand visibility.

Technical information related to Civil Jobs while setting up of Infrastructure - Our Silos have expansion joints located after every 3 silos. Before construction physical site visit to be done to plan the actual placement of digital equipment. The execution agency to appoint a 3rd party inspection agency & a report to be submitted to OFM with Method statement approved by 3rd party.

- Companies who are meeting our standard criteria mentioned above are required to submit their documents to sendat@omflourmills.com no later than 13 July 2024.
- Only the shortlisted companies will be invited to purchase the tender documents.

Shura Council Office reviews replies from government

MUSCAT: The Shura Council Office on Monday reviewed the response of the Council of Ministers on a query about some airports in the Sultanate of Oman.

The response included the views of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, including a briefing about procedures pertaining to the three airports of Sohar, Al Duqm and Salalah, the total cost of the airports and future plans for the management of the facilities.

This was unveiled at the Shura Council's 12th regular session of



the first annual convening during the Council's 10th Term (2023-2027). The meeting was chaired by Khalid Hilal Al Maawali, Chairman of the Council.

The Shura Council Office also reviewed other government replies to a number of follow-up queries filed by the Shura Council's members. -ONA

Sayyid Badr meets Jordan envoy

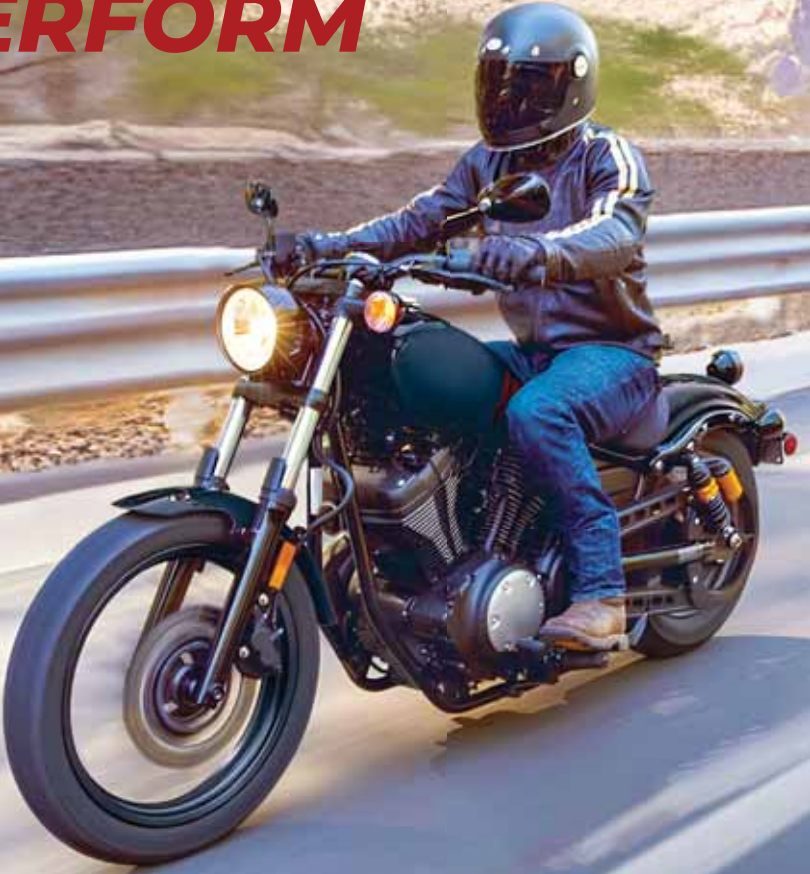
MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister yesterday received Amjad Kuhewi, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Sultanate of Oman to bid him farewell at the end of his tour of duty.

During the meeting, Al Busaidi expressed his appreciation for the efforts exerted by the ambassador in boosting bilateral relations, wishing him success in his future endeavours. -ONA





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AIN DARBAT

a popular tourist destination
in Dhofar Governorate

MUSCAT: Ain Dabat is located to the east of the Wilayat of Taqah, on the main road leading to the Wilayat of Mirbat in Dhofar Governorate.

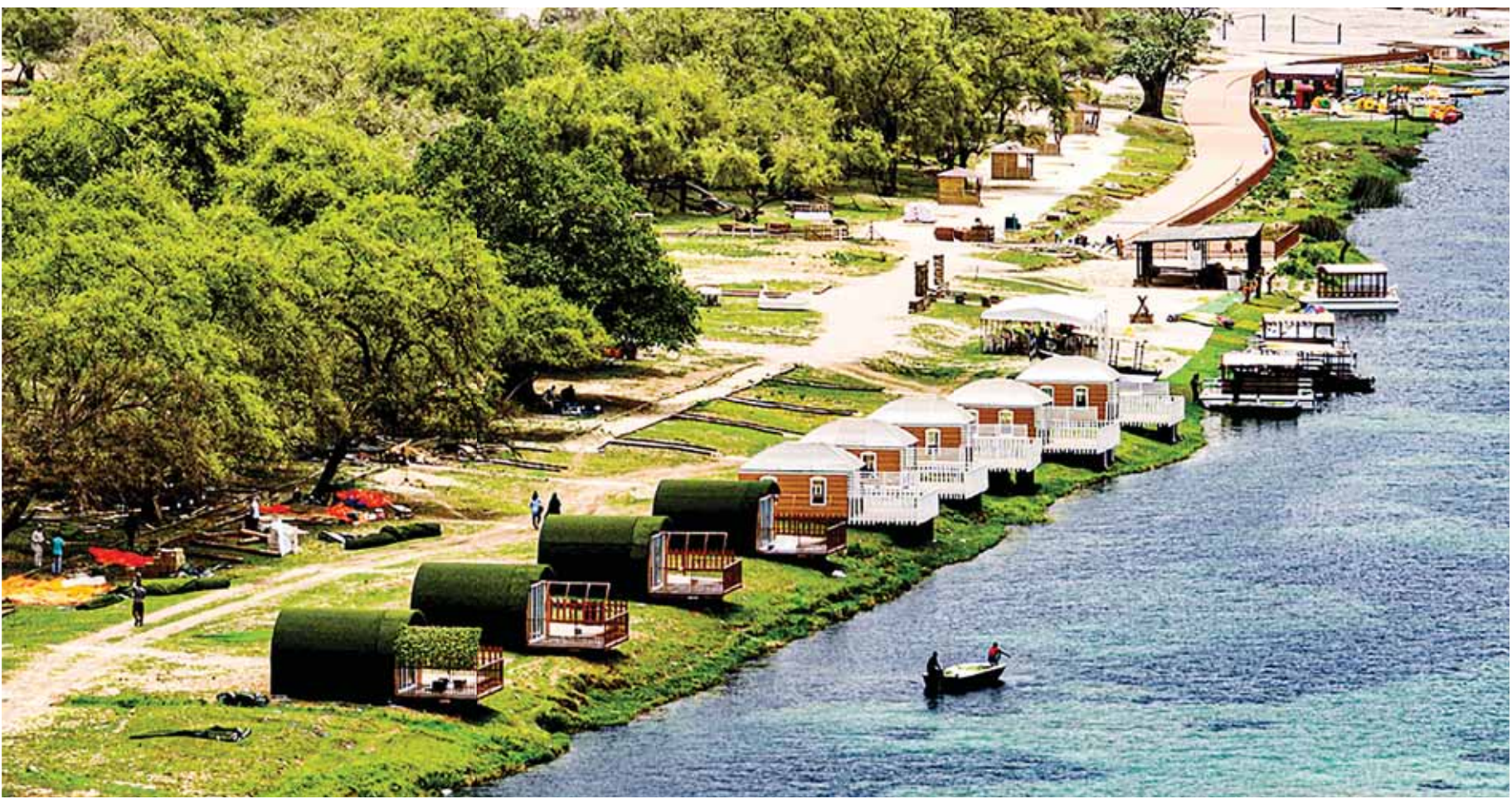
It is distinguished by its picturesque view, pristine nature, and forests of large trees, cactus, sidr trees, and coconut trees that fascinate visitors with their beauty on the valley foothills.

Ain Dabat is one of the most important water springs in the Dhofar Governorate, and its waterfalls usually flow for several months, providing large quantities of water that recharge the groundwater reserve in the governorate.

Wadi Dabat is a natural park interspersed with waterfalls, lakes, mountains and caves with fossilised limestone deposits on their ceilings and floors, in addition to various types of wildlife and green plains.

In autumn, a waterfall is formed in this valley reaching a height of about 100 metres on a beautiful and quiet mountain slope that flows towards the north.

Visitors and tourists can see the Dabat Falls from the main road when it is flowing, and when the water level rises in Wadi Dabat, the spring explodes, especially when heavy rain falls.



Tourism ministry signs agreement to develop Majlis Al Jinn Cave

The pact entails the establishment of a tourism and environmental project to activate the cave's components



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism signed yesterday a usufruct agreement with Omran Group to develop Majlis Al Jinn Cave in the Wilayat of Quriyat, the

Governorate of Muscat. The usufruct entails the establishment of a tourism and environmental project that will activate the cave's components by providing special protection

tools for adventurers and service facilities. It was signed by Salim Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism and Dr. Hashel Obaid Al Mahrouqi, CEO

of Omran Group. As per the usufruct, Omran Group will undertake the operational aspects of the project, as well as employ and train trainers. Omran Group will ensure that

wildlife is preserved inside the cave and the surrounding areas. It will also cooperate with specialized operators to develop a sustainable and long-term plan to activate the location.

It is worth noting that Majlis Al Jinn Cave's floor area is as big as 58,000 square meters. Its capacity stands at 4 million cubic meters with a length of 310 metres and a width of 225 metres. -ONA

OMAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

OAS receives scientific documentation from NASA

MUSCAT: Oman Astronomical Society (OAS) received first scientific documentation from NASA observing the phenomenon of aurora borealis in the skies of the Sultanate of Oman. The NASA statement was in response to the findings of a team of astro-photographers from OAS who reported having observed relatively mysterious, colourful lights on the night of 12 May 2024, when a strong solar storm hit the Earth, causing the appearance of the aurora borealis. The OAS team took photos at Jabal Al Sarat in the Western Hajar Starlight Reserve, after which specialists from NASA affirmed



that what was observed was in fact the first scientific documentation of this phenomenon in the skies of the Sultanate of Oman. The phenomenon of aurora bo-

realis is common in the areas near the poles of the planet Earth. It results from a glow in the sky due to the interaction of charged particles from the sun with molecules

in the Earth's atmosphere. This phenomenon intensifies upon the increase in solar activity. Observers anticipate the occurrence of solar storms that shed millions of tons of the sun's matter into space. Some of the substance reaches the Earth to form that exotic show of light. Observing and documenting the aurora borealis and other sky phenomena from various parts of the planet Earth assumes significance, as it provides insights into the dynamics that govern our planet and their relevance to interactions with the space and the sun. - ONA

GOVERNORATE OF SOUTH AL SHARQIYAH

Competition announced to design monument for Sur as the Arab Tourism Capital 2024

SUR: The Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah on Monday announced a competition to design a monument that documents Sur as Arab Tourism Capital 2024. The contest is open for Omani youths specialised in architecture, design, modern arts, urban planning and civil engineering, as well as those who possess the skills needed for the topic of the competition.



Encouraging innovation Dr. Yahya Badr Al Maawali, Governor of South Al Sharqiyah, said

that the announcement of the competition affirms the governorate's keenness on encouraging innovation and creativity among

young people. He added that the selection of "Sur as Arab Tourism Capital" inspires the implementation of

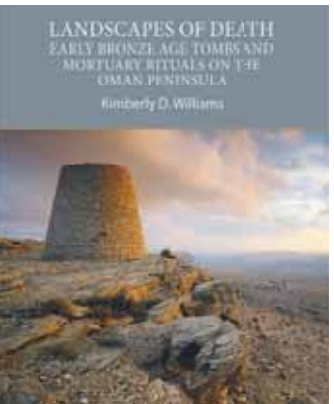
more projects and initiatives to develop the tourism sector. Al Maawali pointed out that the competition's supervising committee prepared a technical guide comprising the terms to be met when designing the monument. In the first round, the names of 10 participants will be announced as qualifiers to the second round in which the jury would assess the projects, said Al Ma'awali. After that, the top three competitors would be felicitated as winners of the competition, he added. - ONA



ARCHAEOLOGIST FROM TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, USA

Tourism ministry launches 'Landscapes of Death' book

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism announces the publication of "Landscapes of Death: Early Bronze Age Tombs and Funerary Rituals on the Oman Peninsula" by Dr. Kimberly D. Williams. This highly anticipated work is the twelfth issue in the acclaimed series "Archaeological Heritage of Oman", published in collaboration with Archaeopress Publishing, Oxford, UK. In "Landscapes of Death", Dr. Williams, an esteemed funerary archaeologist from Temple University, USA, provides an in-depth exploration of ancient funerary practices in Oman, focusing on the spectacular Bronze Age tombs that are still a distinguished characteristic of Oman's landscape. Drawing on her extensive research experience with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and Sultan Qaboos University, Dr. Williams meticulously examines the construction, use, and cultural significance of Bronze Age tombs and burials. Her work reveals a complex tapestry of architectural skills, ritual practices, and belief systems that characterised the era. Moving beyond simple descriptions, this study illuminates the diverse methodologies and rituals associated with these ancient structures, highlighting variations across different commu-



nities and time periods. "Landscapes of Death" is an invaluable repository of current data, documenting all known Early Bronze Age funerary monuments in Oman. It includes detailed records of skeletal remains and grave goods, providing a comprehensive reference for future research. This publication not only serves as a critical resource for scholars interested in Oman's

history but also offers heritage students and enthusiasts a compelling introduction to funerary archaeology and its insights into prehistoric life. Dr. Kimberly D. Williams is a distinguished scholar and a leading figure in archaeology. She is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology at Temple University in Philadelphia, USA. Dr. Williams' research encompasses genetics, bioarchaeology, and funerary archaeology, with a significant focus on Oman. Since 2008, she has led numerous excavations of funerary monuments across Oman, from Dhofar to Al-Batinah Governorates, and also served as visiting professor to Sultan Qaboos University. The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is delighted to contribute this significant work to the academic community and looks forward to the continued exploration and understanding of Oman's rich archaeological heritage.

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services invites the specialized companies to participate in the below said Tenders

Tender "EOI" Number	Tender "EOI" Name	Last Date for Collection of Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DIS-C/2024/M/003	NTA - Emergency & Maintenance Services for Zones - A, & B	10TH July 2024	20th July 2024	2'625/-
DIS-C/2024/M/004	NTA - Emergency & Maintenance Services for Zone - C	10th July 2024	20th June 2024	2'625/-

- To purchase the tender document, send Email to purchase@dhofarservices.nama.om
- Contractors shall be submitted the price proposal in separate cover and technical proposal in separate cover with heading "COMMERCIAL OFFER & TECHNICAL OFFER".
- The proposal document should be deposited in the tender box located at our main office.
- In the event of receipt of the EOI document on behalf of another company, the interested in the above EOI document should provide details of the person's name and the company details.
- The Contractor shall be registered with NDS, meeting HSE qualification criteria.
- Valid "CEP Authorized card copy issued by NDS" Shall only consider for assessment.
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- For any clarifications contact us on:
- Tel No. 23232563 -email: nasrings@dhofarservices.nama.om

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EMIR OF KUWAIT

HM sends condolences cable

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, on the death of Sheikhha Sahera Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments to Sheikh Mishal and the deceased's family. His Majesty also prayed to Allah the Almighty to rest the departed soul in peace in paradise and grant her family patience. — **ONA**



CENTRAL BLOOD BANK

Appeal made for plasma donations

MUSCAT: The Department of Blood Banks Services (DBBS) has made an urgent appeal to people with AB (+ve) blood type to donate plasma at the Central Blood Bank in Baushar on Monday. DBBS said: "We strongly encourage individuals with AB+ blood type to donate plasma at their earliest convenience at the Central Blood Bank in Baushar. Two critical patients are in urgent need of plasma."

— Times News Service

Far right leads in first round of French polls

Going by present projections, the RN, which was founded in its original form by convicted racist Jean-Marie Le Pen, may well fall short of an absolute majority in the French National Assembly or France's lower house of parliament



of all the French people, listening to each and every one of them, respecting the opposition and mindful of national unity," the 28-year-old told a crowd in Paris.

The far right looks closer to power than at any time since the Nazi occupation of France during World War II, with Bardella angling to serve as prime minister in an awkward "cohabitation" with long-time centrist French President Emmanuel Macron until his term expires in 2027.

But Bardella's use of "if the French people" carried a lot of pressure at this stage of the fight. He both gave people the power to choose their representatives and urged them to do so in his party's favour.

Going by present projections, the RN, which was founded in its original form by convicted rac-

ist Jean-Marie Le Pen, may well fall short of an absolute majority in the French National Assembly or France's lower house of parliament.

Strong showing for new left

ist alliance, but not enough Coming second in the polls, with a projected 28.5%, was the broad improvised left-wing coalition New Popular Front. The alliance, which comprises the center-left Socialists, Greens and communists, is led by hardliner Jean-Luc Melenchon of France Unbowed.

Macron's centrists trailed third, with his pro-business, centrist alliance Together winning only 22% of the vote, according to the initial count. While Macron's own position is not in peril (he was elected to a second term in office in 2022), his big bet to call a snap election

appears to have backfired.

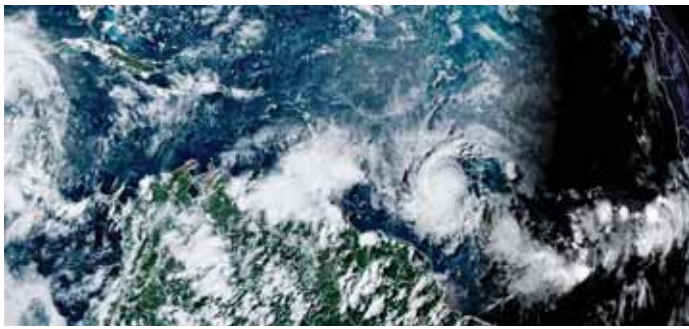
After RN scored a stunning 31% in European Parliament elections in June compared to 14% for Macron's grouping. The president, who found himself trapped in a splintered parliament, threw down the gauntlet. As Sunday's projections show, the French public responded by voting for RN.

High turnout, high volatility

However, under France's complicated two-step voting system, nothing is certain yet. In the 577 French voting districts, all candidates who scored more than 12.5% will move on to the second, definitive round of voting unless one person scores more than 50% of the vote. In that case, they win a seat outright, and there's no runoff election.

— DW

EXTREMELY DANGEROUS



Hurricane Beryl nears the Caribbean islands

BARBADOS: The first hurricane of the 2024 Atlantic season, Beryl, has become a Category 4 storm, the US National Hurricane Centre (NHC) said on Sunday. "Reconnaissance aircraft find Beryl now an extremely dangerous Category 4 hurricane," it said, warning that life-threatening winds and storm surge expected in the Windward Islands, a group of islands that includes Martinique, Saint Lucia and Grenada, early on Monday.

According to the NHC, the hurricane is located about 565 kilometers east-southeast of Barbados, with maximum sustained winds of 215 kilometres per hour. Earlier on Sunday, Beryl was already upgraded to Category 3.

A Category 3 or higher on the Saffir-Simpson scale is considered a major hurricane, and a Category 4 storm has sustained winds of at least 209 kilometres or 130 miles per hour.

Caribbean bracing for hurricane's approach

Countries in the region began shutting down on Sunday as government officials urged people to take shelter.

In the Barbadian capital of Bridgetown, cars were lined up

at gas stations. Supermarkets and grocery stores were crowded with shoppers buying food, water and other supplies. Some households were already boarding up their homes.

Hurricane watches were issued for Barbados, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and Tobago, while tropical storm watches or warnings were in effect for Martinique and Dominica, the NHC said in its latest advisory.

According to Sabu Best, director of Barbados' meteorological service, Beryl's center is expected to pass about 112 kilometers south of Barbados on Monday morning.

It was then expected to move out into the Caribbean as a major hurricane on a path toward Jamaica. It should weaken by mid-week, but still be a hurricane on its way to Mexico.

What is a hurricane?

A hurricane is a storm system rotating around an area of low pressure that produces strong winds and heavy rain. The storm is classified as a hurricane when the sustained wind speeds exceed 119 kilometres per hour.

— DW

JEFFERIES REPORT

Indians spend twice as much on weddings as compared to 18 years of child education

NEW DELHI: A report from Jefferies has revealed stark disparities in expenditure patterns among Indians, showing that the average spending on weddings far surpasses investments in 18 years of child education.

According to the report, the average expenditure on weddings in India stands at approximately Rs1.2 million (\$14,500).

This amount is notably five times higher than India's GDP per capita and over three times the average annual household income of around Rs0.4 million (\$4,5000).

In comparison, the total expenditure on education from pre-primary to graduation for nearly 18 years amounts to just \$8,000 (Rs0.6 million), making wedding expenses nearly twice as much as educational investments.

Globally, India's wedding expenditure-to-GDP ratio of 5x is significantly higher than many other countries.

For instance, in the United States, the ratio for public education is only 0.5x and 0.1x for private education compared to wedding expenses.

India, known as the largest wedding destination globally, hosts between 8 to 10 million weddings annually, underscoring the scale and economic impact of its wedding industry.

Indian wedding market

Estimated at a whopping \$130 billion, the Indian wedding market dwarfs that of the United States and plays a pivotal role in driving consumption across various sectors.

Despite being generally cost-conscious, Indian households allocate substantial resources to weddings, a trend that may seem



disproportionate to income levels.

The average wedding expenditure of \$15,000 (Rs1.2 million) starkly contrasts with spending on education, reflecting cultural priorities and economic behaviours unique to the country.

The wedding industry in India

Times OF OMAN

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

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

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

BRIEFS

7 injured in shooting in US State of Nebraska

WASHINGTON: At least seven people, including four children, were injured in a shooting incident that took place in the city of Crete, in the US state of Nebraska. Local police said that a 74-year-old man opened fire on his neighbors from inside his house, wounding seven people, including four children, before committing suicide. The injured adults were between 22 and 43 years old, while the children were between 3 and 10 years old, police clarified. The police said that investigations are underway to determine the motives and details of the incident.



Heavy rains cause flooding in eastern Czech Republic

PRAGUE: Heavy rains have caused flooding in the east of the Czech Republic, the emergency services reported On Monday. There were more than 300 callouts in Zlín, an industrial city some 250 kilometres south-east of Prague near the border with Slovakia, with pumps being used to drain cellars and ground floors and fallen trees cleared from roads, they said. In the village of Sazovice to the west of Zlín, the water rose to up to 1 metre to the streets. A dozen people had to be taken to safety from their homes. In Racková, a village to the north of Zlín, more than 40 buildings were flooded, including the municipal offices and the school.

Global India AI Summit to be held in New Delhi

NEW DELHI: India is organising the 'Global India AI Summit 2024' under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, scheduled for July 3-4 in New Delhi. According to a press release by the Ministry of Electronics and IT, the summit aims to foster collaboration and facilitate knowledge exchange among international AI experts, reinforcing India's dedication to ethical and inclusive AI growth. The Global India AI Summit 2024 will serve as a vital platform for stakeholders from diverse sectors, including science, industry, civil society, governments, international organisations, and academia. — **Agencies**



— ANI

UN Security Council to discuss Gaza reconstruction in a special session

Members of the Security Council will receive a briefing from Sigrid Kaag, the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs and Reconstruction in Gaza. The briefing is in accordance with Resolution 2720, adopted on December 22, 2023

GAZA: The United Nations Security Council is scheduled to convene a special session on Tuesday, to address the ongoing humanitarian situation in Gaza, specifically focusing on reconstruction efforts in the region.

Members of the Security Council will receive a briefing from Sigrid Kaag, the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs and Reconstruction in Gaza. The briefing is in accordance with Resolution 2720, adopted on December 22, 2023.



cil will receive a briefing from Sigrid Kaag, the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs and Reconstruction in Gaza. The briefing is in accordance with Resolution 2720, adopted on December 22, 2023.

Recently, Kaag held discussions in Washington with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken regarding the Gaza situation.

Occupation army continues its large-scale aggression against Nur Shams

The Israeli occupation forces continued on Monday their onslaught against Nour Shams refugee camp, east of the city of Tulkarm,

causing extensive destruction to its infrastructure and residents' properties.

Local sources said that the occupation forces accompanied by military tanks and vehicles broke into the camp and imposed a strict siege on it, preventing people from leaving or entering the camp.

The forces further deployed their snipers on the roofs of several buildings and surrounding the camp.

The occupation bulldozers have been bulldozing and destroying the camp's infrastructure since 4:00 am local time. They also deliberately vandalised public and private property along Nablus

Street, and destroyed the main water line feeding the camp.

At dawn on Monday, the occupation forces stormed the city of Tulkarm, accompanied by four military bulldozers from its western axis, and roamed its main streets, specifically al-Alimi, al-Sikka, and Nablus Streets, amid intense flights of reconnaissance warplanes.

Meanwhile, the occupation bulldozers also destroyed the vicinity of the al-Younis roundabout in the northern neighborhood of the city and the vicinity of the Aktaba roundabout east of Tulkarm.

Earlier yesterday, an Israeli drone bombed a house in al-

Manshiya neighborhood in Nour Shams camp, killing Saeed the 24-year-old Izzat Jaber and wounding five others, including two in serious condition.

With the killing of Jaber, the number of Palestinians who were killed by Israeli forces in Tulkarm since the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip began on October 7, 2023 now rises to 114.

Israeli forces detain 16 Palestinians from the West Bank

The Israeli occupation forces detained at least 16 Palestinians from the occupied West Bank, including a female student at Birzeit University, children, and former prisoners, in addition to five civilians from Gaza residing in the West Bank, according to the Detainees and Ex-Detainees Commission and the Palestinian Prisoner's Society (PPS).

In a joint statement, the two organizations said that the detention operations were concentrated in Ramallah and al-Bireh governorates, while the others took place in Hebron, Nablus, and Tubas governorates.

They clarified that this figure includes those detained from their homes, at military checkpoints, those who surrendered under pressure, and those taken as hostages.

Israeli occupation forces detained more than 9,465 Palestinians from the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, since the start of the ongoing Israeli onslaught on the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023.

Israeli occupation forces continue their campaign of arrests through raids, extensive harassment, brutal beatings, threats against detainees and their families, alongside widespread acts of sabotage and destruction of civilian homes, the statement added.

Israeli occupation forces committed two massacres against families in the Gaza Strip over the last 24 hours, resulting in the documented killing of at least 23 Palestinians and the injury of 91 others, according to medical sources.

Local health authorities confirmed that the Palestinian death toll from the Israeli onslaught since October 7 has risen to 37,900 reported fatalities, with an additional 87,060 individuals sustaining injuries. The majority of the victims are women and children.

Meanwhile, ambulance and rescue teams are still unable to reach many casualties and dead bodies trapped under the rubble or scattered on roads across the war-torn enclave, as Israeli occupation forces continue to obstruct the movement of ambulance and civil defense crews. — Wafa

PALK BAY SEA AREA

Sri Lankan Navy apprehends 26 Indian fishermen

RAMESWARAM: The Sri Lankan Navy apprehended 26 Indian fishermen, and seized four boats, the Fishermen Association of Pamban said. The fishermen had gone fishing from Pamban in the Rameswaram Island area near the Palk Bay sea area, the Fishermen Association added.

Condemning the move by the Sri Lankan Navy, the fishermen of Pamban along with their families took part in a road blockade to protest the arrest of the fishermen.

Last week, the Sri Lankan Navy apprehended 22 Tamil Nadu fishermen for fishing near Neduntheevu in Sri Lankan waters, according to the Rameswaram Fisherman Association.

While the fishermen were fishing near Nedundeevu in the Palk Bay Sea area, the Sri Lankan Navy arrived and seized three boats belonging to the fishermen of Thangachimadam. — ANI

SOUTH KOREAN MILITARY

North Korea fires missiles after South Korea-US-Japan drill

SEOUL: North Korea has launched two ballistic missiles, the South Korean military said on Monday, as Pyongyang warned of countermeasures against a joint military drill.

The missiles were launched from South Hwanghae Province, South Korean news agency Yonhap reported, citing the authorities in Seoul. It said that one missile had flown about 600 kilometres (372 miles) while the second flew about 120 kilometres.

To respond overwhelmingly to any provocation

"The South Korean military will maintain its capacity and posture to respond overwhelmingly to any provocation while closely monitoring North Korea's various activities under a strong South Korea-US joint defence posture," a military spokesperson said in a press conference.

Pyongyang's state-controlled KCNA news agency spoke of a successful test for a "new important technology."



However, a spokesman for the South Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff told journalists that one of the test missiles had exploded in the early phase of the flight.

Seoul was still analyzing the launch and did not immediately have confirmation whether there were any casualties or damage to North Korean property, the spokesperson said.

North Korea slams 'Asian NATO'

The launch comes less than a day after North Korea criticized a joint military exercise by South Korea, Japan and the United States held

this month, calling the alliance "the Asian version of NATO."

North Korea would "firmly defend the sovereignty, security and interests of the state and peace in the region through offensive and overwhelming countermeasures," a statement carried by Pyongyang's state-controlled KCNA news agency had said.

Under the rule of its supreme leader, Kim Jong Un, North Korea has developed nuclear-capable missiles in recent years, despite international sanctions against Pyongyang over its nuclear weapons and missile program.

South Korean officials have previously said North Korea's recent short-range ballistic missile launches may be intended to show its wares to potential buyers.

North Korea is suspected of supplying ballistic missiles and artillery shells to Russia — an allegation both countries deny despite their pledges of military cooperation and a pact of mutual military support. — DW

HAINAN PROVINCE

China's first commercial spacecraft launch site ready for operations

WENCHANG (Hainan): China's first commercial spacecraft launch site is ready for operations in south China's Hainan Province as of Sunday, having completed a rocket launch simulation rehearsal using its two launch pads.

According to the Hainan International Commercial Aerospace Launch Co., Ltd. (HICAL), which built and operates the launch site, the exercises performed using the launch pads included water spraying and deluge system cooling, as well as a rocket lifting arm erection test. Following assessments, HICAL confirmed that the site is operational for launch missions.

HICAL President Yang Tianliang called on the company to work with satellite and rocket developers, and to prepare for the site's first launch mission.

Established in June 2022, HICAL was founded by the Hainan provincial government, the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation, and the China Satellite Network Group Co., Ltd.

Coast of Wenchang City

The launch site has an approximate investment of 4 billion yuan (about \$560 million) and is located off the coast of Wenchang City. It includes a launch area, a TT&C (telemetry, tracking and command) building, multiple rocket assembly buildings, spacecraft testing and integration facilities, fuel storage facilities, and other structures. It is positioned at a latitude of 20 de-



grees north, benefitting from the advantages of a low latitude, which increases rocket payload capacities and reduces launch costs.

Compared to inland launch sites, coastal launch sites are more convenient and safer as large rockets can be transported to site by ship, which is very important for commercial launch services. A new, purpose-built port is being planned by the Hainan provincial government.

The coastal location also gives HICAL an advantage in its recovery of reusable rockets after launch. The company is working

with commercial rocket developers to carry out experiments related to vertical landings and the recovery of rockets from the sea.

Two launch pads

It said the launch site is designed with two launch pads for liquid propellant rockets and another two for solid propellant rockets, with its No.1 and No.2 launch pads completed in December 2023 and June 2024, respectively.

The No.1 pad is designed for the Long March-8, China's new generation medium-lift carrier rocket. The No.2 pad is capable of

launching multiple types of rockets with various diameters from commercial rocket companies. Each pad has an annual capacity of 16 launches.

Capable of refuelling

The propellant and gas supply system at the launch site is capable of refuelling and supplying liquid oxygen, liquid hydrogen, kerosene and methane.

HICAL will also support commercial rocket companies in providing international commercial launch services. Xiang Dalin, vice director of HICAL's technical department, said the company will issue a universal interface file of commercial rocket designs both domestically and internationally.

The commercial space industry was included in the Chinese government work report for the first time this year. It was listed as one of the "emerging industries and future-oriented industries" that the government plans to cultivate.

According to the 2023 China aerospace science and technology blue book, the country completed 26 commercial launches in 2023, accounting for 39 percent of its total number of launches.

China's commercial space market has maintained rapid growth since 2015, with an average annual growth rate of more than 20 percent from 2017 to 2024.

It is estimated that its market value will be about 2.34 trillion yuan by 2024.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by September 2024 reaching \$85.56, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 20 cents. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2024



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,696.02 points, up by 0.19% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.34% at 462.89 points. Barka Water & Power Company, up 9.71%, was the top gainer while Oman Qatar Insurance, down 9.09%, was the top loser.

Treasury bills worth OMR15mn issued

Treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR15 million by a way of allotting treasury bills on Monday.

The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR3 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.640 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.640 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.69286 per cent and 4.70981 per cent, respectively.

Whereas, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR12 million, for a maturity



period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR98.732 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.730 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 5.08476 per cent and 5.15005 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of

Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 6.00 per cent while the dis-

count rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 6.50 per cent.

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. -**ONA**

BUSINESS SENTIMENT INDEX

Japan business mood improves as auto woes ease but inflation weighs

TOKYO: The business sentiment index for major Japanese manufacturers rose two points to 13 in June, marking the first improvement in two quarters, although rising costs cast a shadow over the outlook, Bank of Japan data showed.

The index among nonmanufacturers, including service providers such as hotel operators, worsened to 33 in June from 34, the first fall in 16 quarters after a strong run of improvement mainly driven by a revival of inbound tourism, Japanese news agency Kyodo News reported. Many companies now cite concerns about inflation and labour shortages, according to the Tankan quarterly survey.

The Tankan index represents the percentage of companies reporting favourable conditions minus the percentage reporting unfavourable ones. The average market forecast for the index of large manufacturers, compiled by Kyodo News, was for an improvement to 12.

Automakers, retailers indices

The data highlighted a divergence

in how well companies and sectors are coping with rising energy and raw material costs, further inflated by a weak yen.

Sentiment improved in sectors dealing with raw materials that have been able to pass on costs, such as pulp and paper, but the food and steel sectors became less optimistic due to inflation concerns.

“Business sentiment is good overall,” said Yoshimasa Maruyama, chief economist at SMBC Nikko Securities Inc.

While the mood was still positive among automakers the index fell by one point to 12.

Sentiment among retailers, however, worsened to 19, down 12 points, with Japanese households yet to feel the impact of real wage growth due to inflation.

High import costs

The yen's persistent depreciation, particularly against the U.S dollar, means resource-poor Japan will continue to see higher import costs accelerating inflation.

A weak yen, however, is a boon to exporters because it boosts

their overseas profits when repatriated. It also makes travelling to and shopping in Japan cheaper for foreign tourists. Hotel and restaurant operators, and those providing face-to-face services, remained optimistic, despite the sector index falling slightly.

Japanese companies expect the dollar to trade at 144.77 yen in fiscal 2024, sharply higher from 141.42 yen in the previous survey in March. The dollar rose above 161 yen at one point last week, amid heightened market vigilance about possible intervention by Japanese authorities to slow the yen's sharp decline.

The Japanese economy contracted an annualised real 2.9 percent in the January-March quarter, rather than declining 1.8 percent, according to revised data released Monday, underscoring soft domestic demand.

Still, Japanese companies are planning to ramp up capital spending by 8.4 percent in the year to next March, the BOJ survey showed, after a 10.6 percent increase in fiscal 2023. -**WAM**

AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURER GIANT

Boeing to acquire subcontractor Spirit AeroSystems for \$4.7bn

NEW YORK: Aircraft manufacturer giant Boeing has announced plans to acquire Spirit AeroSystems for \$4.7 billion in an all-stock transaction for the firm, which was already part of Boeing's manufacturing chain.

The acquisition is worth \$4.7 billion, at \$37.25 per share. The total deal, however, is for \$8.3 billion, which includes the subcontractor's debt, Boeing said in a statement late Sunday.

“We believe this deal is in the best interest of the flying public, our airline customers, the employees of Spirit and Boeing, our shareholders and the country more broadly,” Boeing President and CEO Dave Calhoun said in the statement.

Spirit was owned by Boeing until 2005, when it was sold off in a bid to reduce costs. With this deal, Boeing will begin to move away from its strategy of outsourcing key parts of its passenger planes.

Centring ‘safety and quality’

Boeing is by far Spirit's biggest cli-



ent, with around 70% of its revenue coming from the American plane maker in 2023. The two companies have faced intense scrutiny since a near-catastrophic incident in January, when a fuselage panel blew off a 737 MAX mid-flight.

“By reintegrating Spirit, we can fully align our commercial production systems, including our Safety and Quality Management Systems, and our workforce to the same priorities, incentives and

outcomes — centred on safety and quality,” Calhoun said.

Separately, European aerospace giant Airbus also announced that it would buy “major activities related to Airbus” from subcontractor Spirit AeroSystems.

The group said this includes production sites related to the A350 in North Carolina and France, as well as the production of the A220 parts in Belfast, Casablanca in Morocco and in Kansas, US. -**DW**

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Sidrah 3.0 to unleash entrepreneurial spirit among Omani women

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The much-anticipated Sidrah 3.0, the latest edition of the leadership programme for Omani women, has officially launched, promising a dynamic platform for personal and professional growth. Building on the success of the past two years, which saw 106 women achieve significant milestones in their careers, Sidrah 3.0 aims to cultivate entrepreneurial mindsets that align with Oman's evolving socio-economic landscape.

Co-designed and co-run by Lahunna Oman and Outward Bound Oman, Sidrah 3.0 welcomes a diverse group of women aged 20-35 from across the Sultanate, including jobseekers, young professionals and entrepreneurs all united to learn, lead and innovate. This two-phased programme is crafted to endow participants with the entrepreneurial understanding, resilience, and leadership qualities essential for shaping the next generation of trailblazers and business leaders.

Through a blend of experiential learning, interactive workshops, mentorship, community building, and personalised coaching, Sidrah 3.0 kindles a lifelong passion for



learning and growth and forms a supportive community that will brighten Oman's future with its purpose and grit.

Over the 3-month programme, participants will be immersed in simulations and role-plays which are designed to heighten self-awareness, perseverance, and effective collaboration. This holistic approach aims to release

their sense of higher purpose and shape service-oriented mindsets, so they can make a meaningful impact within their communities and beyond.

Shatha Salim Al Maskiry, Founder of Lahunna Oman, said: “Following the success of our previous editions, we are privileged to provide Omani women with an enriching journey that inspires

them to shape their future with confidence. We have expanded the program to include entrepreneurial skills, so they can participate and drive innovation in serving the national priorities of Oman's Vision 2040.”

Richard Lewis, Executive Director at Outward Bound Oman said, “Today, we embark on a new journey with the launch of the Sidrah

3.0 in collaboration with Lahunna Oman. Through our innovative Sidrah programme, we aim to empower young women by building their capabilities and expanding their professional horizons. Outward Bound Oman's renowned soft skills outdoor courses are at the heart of this initiative, providing unique opportunities for participants to develop leadership, resilience, and meaningful connections. By fostering the personal and professional growth of young women, we are contributing to the realization of a diversified and sustainable economy, as envisioned in Oman Vision 2040.”

The programme includes sessions delivered by Protiviti Oman, IDENTITY in addition to online courses by Salameh, an AI-powered Learning Management System, group coaching sessions and one-on-one sessions by the International Coaching Federation (ICF) – Oman Chapter. Fostering empathy, active citizenship and social responsibility participants are mandated to volunteer and lend their time and support to address community needs.

Malak Al Shaibani, General Manager of Corporate Relations and ICV at Oman Shell expressed,

“We have been a supporter of Sidrah since its inception, and it is evidently an initiative that has been successful in unleashing and transforming the potential of the young Omani women.

“We invest in youth, especially women to develop them as entrepreneurial leaders who will certainly contribute to the sustainable development of Oman. Women's development is a key pillar of the Shell Powering Lives strategy, and we believe that the Sidrah program is the perfect initiative to help us achieve this goal.”

Sidrah 3.0 is proudly supported by a group of partners and sponsors, including Oman Shell, Visa, MB Foundation, OQ, and Bank Nizwa as well as media partners Al Wisal, Merge 104.8, and Virgin Radio Oman.

Launched in Oman in June 2022, Sidrah has consistently created a space for Omani women to share their talents and overcome their self-limiting beliefs. The programme equips participants with essential future-of-work skills in problem-solving, change leadership, character development, and service learning, all while reinforcing Omani values, social responsibility, and citizenship.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Barka Water & Power Company, up 9.71%, was the top gainer while Oman Qatar Insurance, down 9.09%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,696.02 points, up by 0.19% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.34% at 462.89 points. Barka Water & Power Company, up 9.71%, was the top gainer while Oman Qatar Insurance, down 9.09%, was the top loser. Shares of OQGN were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 926 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 2.88 million, with more than 17.62 million shares changing hands. Out of 48 traded securities, 19 advanced, 12 declined, and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 343K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 251K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 93K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,677.20 points, down 0.1%. Prices of Al Sharqia Investment, Global Financial Investments,

Oman & Emirates Investment, Sohar International Bank, Bank Nizwa were up by 3.90%, 2.78%, 2.47%, 2.26%, 0.97% respectively. Prices of Oman Qatar Insurance, Oman Arab Bank, Bank Dhofar, United Finance were down by 9.09%, 3.38%, 3.03%, 1.64% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,065.12 points, down 0.02%. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Oman Chromite were up by 1.21%, 0.24% respectively. Prices of Oman Fisheries, Raysut Cement, Oman Cables Industry were down by 8.16%, 2.08%, 1.50% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.58% before closing at 1,831.00 points. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company, National Gas, Al Jazeera Services, Al Suwadi Power, Al Batinah Power were up by 9.71%, 5.41%, 4.26%, 4.11%, 2.78% respectively. Prices of Al Maha Marketing, Oman Telecom, Renaissance Services were down by 3.67%, 0.39%, 0.28% respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,711.99	4,687.13	4,696.02	4,687.26	8.76	0.19	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,708.84	7,671.83	7,677.20	7,684.90	-7.70	-0.10	
Industry Index	6,066.94	6,038.42	6,065.12	6,066.29	-1.17	-0.02	
Services Index	1,845.28	1,820.06	1,831.00	1,820.39	10.61	0.58	
MSX Shariah Index	463.47	458.93	462.89	461.33	1.57	0.34	
MSX TRI INDEX	6,545.42	6,510.89	6,523.25	6,511.08	12.17	0.19	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,758.04	8,715.99	8,722.08	8,730.84	-8.75	-0.10	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	7,022.89	6,966.90	6,997.71	6,999.06	-1.35	-0.02	
SERVICES TR IDX	2,139.97	2,110.72	2,123.41	2,111.10	12.31	0.58	
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	0.00	0.00	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
17,621,445	2,875,246	926	24,282,213,864	19	12	17	48

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JULY 1

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. RD	DIFF. %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PAV. VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	834,269	62,782	40	0.075	0.077	0.073	0.076	0.073	0.003	4.110	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.100	54,294,882
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	487,456	38,959	28	0.079	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.077	0.003	3.896	0.080	0.079	0.081	0.100	7,200,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	426,902	31,465	25	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.074	0.072	0.002	2.778	0.074	0.074	0.078	0.100	14,800,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	1,133,747	83,644	49	0.073	0.075	0.073	0.074	0.072	0.002	2.778	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.100	49,941,670
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	197,592	16,358	17	0.082	0.084	0.082	0.083	0.081	0.002	2.469	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.100	10,115,625
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	3,434,439	466,999	56	0.135	0.137	0.135	0.136	0.133	0.003	2.256	0.136	0.136	0.137	0.100	788,505,493
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	207,879	53,009	11	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.253	0.002	0.791	0.255	0.255	0.278	0.100	414,616,321
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	3,505,202	496,510	192	0.141	0.142	0.141	0.142	0.141	0.001	0.709	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.100	614,948,597
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	166,646	48,661	23	0.292	0.292	0.292	0.292	0.291	0.001	0.344	0.292	0.292	0.294	0.100	190,075,715
OM0000000834	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	271,612	80,636	43	0.297	0.298	0.296	0.297	0.296	0.001	0.328	0.297	0.297	0.297	0.100	228,749,400
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	500	194	1	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.385	0.385	0.000	0.000	0.388	0.385	0.388	0.100	127,385,993
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	700	207	1	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.000	0.000	0.295	0.270	0.315	0.100	36,844,898
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,146,976	288,242	43	0.252	0.252	0.251	0.251	0.251	0.000	0.000	0.251	0.251	0.251	0.100	1,884,105,683
OM0000004735	SEMBOORP-SALALAH	74,523	7706	11	0.107	0.107	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.102	0.107	0.100	98,320,911
OM0000004798	MADINA TAKAFUL	180,097	14,543	25	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.081	0.100	14,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	88,230	31,567	13	0.358	0.358	0.357	0.357	0.358	-0.001	-0.279	0.357	0.357	0.360	0.100	84,398,370
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	199,554	203,049	42	1.010	1.040	1.010	1.011	1.015	-0.004	-0.394	1.011	1.009	1.030	0.100	758,250,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	65,000	3,900	3	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.061	-0.001	-1.639	0.060	0.059	0.061	0.100	21,367,638
Total	18	12,421,324	1,928,431	623												

Parallel Market																
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	13,100	3,996	3	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.278	0.027	9.712	0.305	0.251	0.300	0.100	48,800,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	2,096,884	235,122	119	0.110	0.117	0.109	0.117	0.111	0.006	5.405	0.117	0.116	0.117	0.100	9,945,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	9,325	2,241	3	0.235	0.245	0.235	0.245	0.235	0.010	4.255	0.245	0.235	0.249	0.100	14,965,047
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	86,699	6,344	7	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.001	1.370	0.074	0.073	0.077	0.100	16,445,760
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	663,200	111,400	32	0.167	0.170	0.167	0.167	0.165	0.002	1.212	0.167	0.167	0.168	0.100	33,898,736
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	476,600	49,556	15	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.103	0.001	0.971	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.100	232,645,115
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	15,000	4,875	2	0.325	0.325	0.325	0.325	0.322	0.003	0.932	0.325	0.325	0.350	0.100	64,881,570
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	1,023	3,893	4	4.100	4.160	3.750	4.160	4.150	0.010	0.241	4.160	3.750	4.565	1.000	13,728,000
OM0000001111	GULF HOTELS (OM)	77,075	295,198	4	3.830	3.834	3.830	3.834	3.834	0.000	0.000	3.834	0.000	3.830	1.000	13,144,187
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	5,401	697	1	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.000	0.000	0.129	0.120	0.140	0.100	3,670,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	25,000	30,000	1	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.000	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.100	60,000,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	9,000	450	1	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.049	0.055	0.100	15,357,316
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	38,000	3,078	2	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.080	0.081	0.100	17,188,580
OM0000001982	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	4,505	364	2	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.100	4,760,000
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	11,688	1,169	5	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	1,639,411
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	149,532	33,793	16	0.225	0.228	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.000	0.000	0.225	0.223	0.225	0.100	10,297,305
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,000	310	2	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.286	0.310	0.100	25,234,853
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	325,568	19,676	18	0.061	0.061	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.059	0.061	0.100	87,756,088
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	43,600	5,145	2	0.118	0.119	0.118	0.118	0.119	-0.001	-0.840	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.100	59,956,218
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	250	723	2	2.800	2.950	2.800	2.950	2.905	-0.045	-1.503	2.950	2.801	2.950	0.100	264,615,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	642,484	45,223	23	0.072	0.072	0.070	0.070	0.072	-0.002	-2.778	0.070	0.068	0.070	0.100	34,358,547
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	200,000	32,000	1	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.165	-0.005	-3.030	0.160	0.154	0.160	0.100	479,418,230
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	249,000	35,982	23	0.146	0.146	0.143	0.143	0.148	-0.005	-3.378	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.100	238,725,630
OM0000003900	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	30	32	1	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.050	-0.040	-3.870	1.050	1.050	1.100	0.100	72,450,000
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSURANCE	4,369	743	1	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.187	-0.017	-9.091	0.170	0.172	0.205	0.100	27,407,157
Total	25	5,120,333	922,019	290												

DEVELOPMENT

Apple plans to make AirPods with in-built cameras

WASHINGTON: Apple is reportedly planning to add cameras to its AirPods, with mass production of these revamped earbuds expected by 2026.

This development, revealed by analyst and Apple insider Ming-Chi Kuo, suggests that the tech giant aims to incorporate built-in infrared (IR) cameras into the Air-

Pods to enhance their functionality, particularly in conjunction with augmented reality (AR) headsets.

Kuo's report indicates that these new AirPods will feature an IR camera similar to the Face ID module found in iPhones and iPads.

Primary objective

The primary objective of this in-

tegration is to enhance the spatial audio capabilities of Apple's current and future AR headsets, including the Vision Pro.

The IR camera on the AirPods is expected to detect environmental image changes, which could enable in-air gesture control, thereby improving human-device interaction. -OMA



TAZIZ PROGRAMME

Programme launched to empower PDO concession area students with global skills and English proficiency



MUSCAT: Under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, represented by the Career Guidance and Student Counselling Center, the "Taziz" programme was launched in the United Kingdom with the participation of 25 students from Petroleum Development Oman's concession areas.

The programme is funded by Petroleum Development Oman and implemented by the German University of Technology in Oman (GUTech) and lasts for four weeks.

The "Taziz" programme aims to improve students' proficiency in the English language, enhance their skills in social communication, and foster intercultural exchange in some of the best schools specialized in teaching English.

Zahrán bin Nasser Al-Mughdri, Assistant Director of the Career Guidance and Entrepreneurship Studies Department at the Career Guidance and Student Counseling Center, said: "The 'Taziz' programme is one of the most important programmes supervised by the Ministry of Education, represented by the Career Guidance and Student Counseling Center, in cooperation with Petroleum Development Oman and the German University of Technology in Oman. The programme, implemented in the United Kingdom for the second consecutive year,

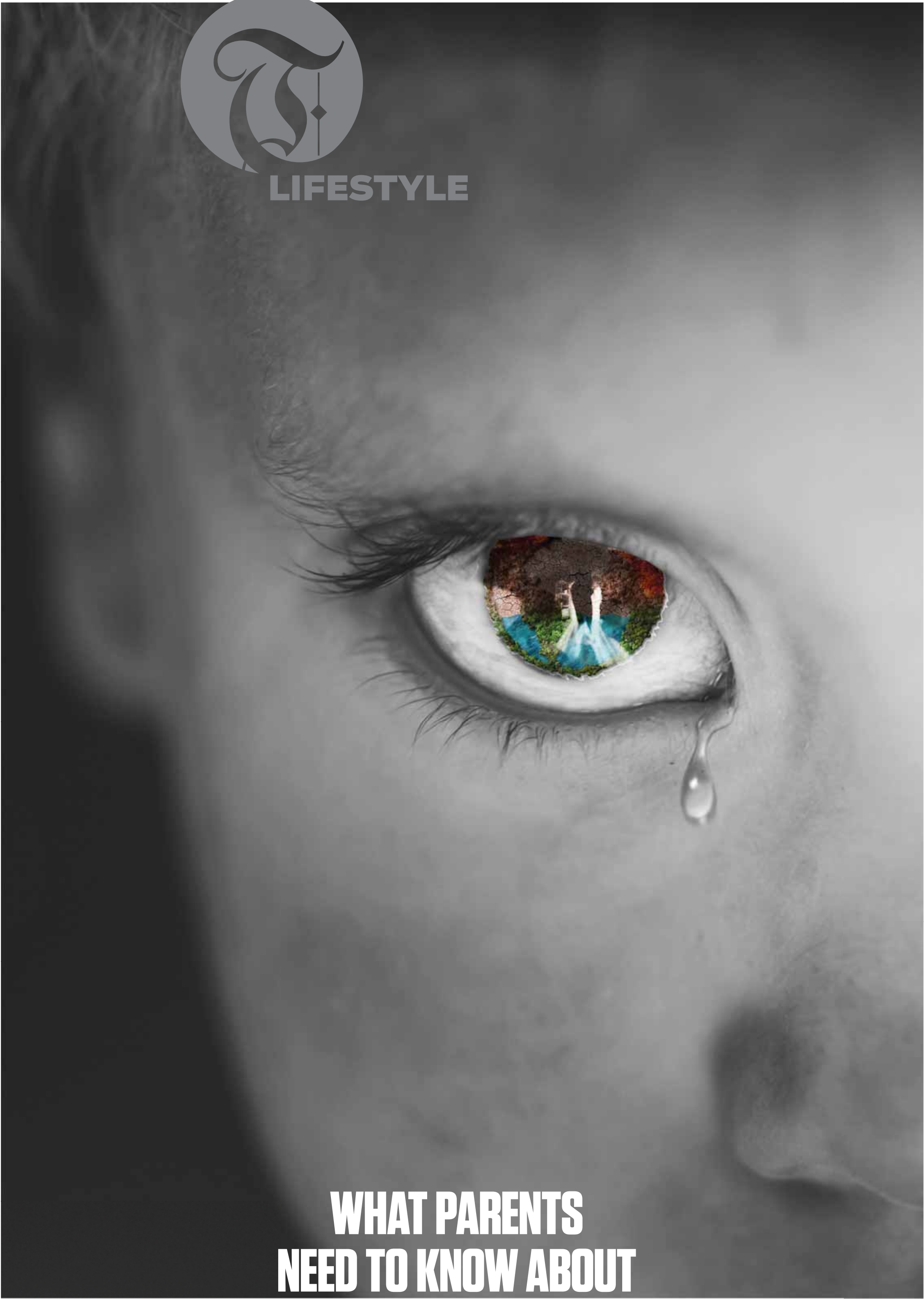
aims to equip students with English language skills and enhance their scientific and academic capabilities in this area, achieving high levels of understanding through the best universities and schools worldwide specialized in teaching English as a first language. The programme offers participating students the opportunity to develop their language skills, meet peers from different countries, and learn about various other cultures."

Suleiman bin Nasser Al-Kindi, Head of the Community Programmes Team at Petroleum Development Oman, said: "We always strive to develop the skills of students in Petroleum Development Oman's concession areas through various local and international programmes, aiming to enhance their contemporary life skills, refine their scientific personalities, and prepare them for future academic life. The 'Taziz' programme is an important educational window for eleventh-grade students to prepare them for university life."

Yousuf Al-Darwish, Manager of Media and Communications at the German University of Technology in Oman and the overall supervisor of the "Taziz" programme, said: "The program provides an opportunity for participating stu-

dents to develop their scientific and personal skills through a variety of academic, cultural, and recreational activities that contribute to broadening their intellectual horizons and enhancing their future goals. The German University possesses the scientific and academic expertise to achieve the programme's objectives according to a specialised educational and academic system."

Programme structure



WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Excessive heat. Emerging diseases. Severe storms and off-season illnesses. The environmental hazards associated with climate change threaten the physical and mental health of children and families — and can be a source of anxiety.

It's not just speculation. Communities are already impacted by such climate change effects as heat illness from dangerous temperatures, asthma hospitalizations from earlier and more severe pollen seasons, and trauma from severe wildfires and storms.

"When we talk with parents about what's good for their kids, part of our job is connecting the dots between our changing climate and their children's health," said Dr. Samantha Ahdoot, a pediatrician. "All children need exercise, nutritious

food and stable communities to thrive. But climate change poses new challenges for our patients, from struggling to breathe due to wildfire smoke to flooded homes from extreme rainfall events to extreme heat. When we talk about the need to heal the planet, we are also talking about protecting our children's ability to grow up in a safe, healthy world."

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), which has long recognized the impact of climate change on children, recently announced a new strategic initiative on environmental health and disaster readiness as a priority outlined by its Board of Directors for 2024. The AAP is recommending steps not only for communities and policy makers, but for families. Here are a few suggestions:

- Help your community adopt climate solutions. The AAP recommends a tran-

sition away from fossil fuels and toward clean, renewable energy like wind, solar and geothermal. Join forces with a local group to help bring clean energy to your school, town, state or even country. The AAP also recommends that communities incorporate healthy transportation systems, including public transit and walkable, bikeable pathways that allow children to be outdoors and active. Families can get involved at the local level to help create safe routes to walk and bike where you live.

- Let kids know that their voices and advocacy can be powerful. Kids may be inspired to know that some of our most effective and powerful climate advocates today are children and youth. Support their engagement in local, state and national climate solutions.
- Reduce your own energy consumption

and waste. Walking, biking, taking public transit, carpooling, and adopting a more plant-forward diet are all ways to help promote health for kids and the planet.

- Show them you care. Let kids know that their adult caregivers—parents and pediatricians included—are committed to climate action solutions that protect their health and their world.

More information is available at [HealthyChildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org).

"What is healthy for the planet is also healthy for children," Dr. Ahdoot said. "Pediatricians and parents share the same goal—to protect children's health today, and ensure that they have a healthy future in adulthood. Protecting our planet helps preserve a healthy world that can provide all children the nutrition, play, and community stability that they need to thrive."- **StatePoint**

SPORTS

Spain set up blockbuster date with Germany in quarters

Williams scores stunner for Spain as they overcome a spirited Georgia 4-1 in Euro 2024 knockout match

COLOGNE: Spain set up a blockbuster quarter-final tie with Euro 2024 hosts Germany by surviving an early scare to ease past Georgia 4-1 on Sunday. Playing in their first major tournament, Georgia had to soak up heavy pressure from Spain early on but stunned those watching on at Cologne Stadium when they took a surprise lead after 18 minutes. Spain defender Robin le Normand poked Otar Kakabadze's curling cross into his own net, finishing off a devastating counter-attack and silencing supporters behind their goal. Substitutes warming up sprinted over to Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, who led Georgia's celebrations in the corner. It sparked confidence in Georgia but Spain's pressure eventually paid off when Manchester



City's Rodri drilled a shot into the bottom corner - beating goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili, who had another outstanding overall display. Spain continued to excite in attack, stringing together countless chances, and capitalised when Fabian Ruiz nodded in a cross from 16-year-old Lamine Yamal. Georgia continued to battle and Napoli winger Kvaratskhelia would have scored the goal of the tournament had his clever chip from the halfway line bounced a

metre to the right instead of passing the post. But despite Georgia's flair and unpredictability, Spain's accomplished possession game took control - Nico Williams striking powerfully into the roof of the net to make it 3-1, before Dani Olmo's precise finish capped things off. European giants and home favourites Germany are up next for Spain in Stuttgart on Friday, while Georgia exit the competition after a fairytale run in which they mas-

sively exceeded expectations. "This is the path we are in. Germany at home will be very strong but we have no fear," said Rodri, on Spain's next match. "I'm sure they will be worried about us too. We will have to play fantastic but we are here to try to win, not play well or give a good image. We are going all out to try to win." Spain's flawless record in the group stages - winning all three matches without conceding a goal -

meant they were considered heavy favourites for this knockout tie. They had to show resilience when Georgia then ripped up the script, stunning Spain with a goal against the run of play, but Luis de la Fuente's men delivered. Largely considered tournament favourites for the way they have played so far, Spain only consolidated that opinion with a ruthless second-half display, full of creativity. Yamal and Williams, 21, danced together in the corner after Spain's third goal, with both putting in another exciting performance. Substitute Olmo also took his opportunity to shine, getting his name on the scoresheet, having looked bright in their 1-0 win over Albania. Spain were tested by Georgia but did not let their counter-attacking threat disrupt their rhythm, and it paid off. Quarter-final opponents Germany will pose their biggest challenge so far but Spain have shown more than enough to maintain their 'tournament favourites' tag. "We created many chances and it could have been 8-1 which would have been normal," said Spain manager Luis de la Fuente. "We need to value how important this victory is because the opponents were really good. "We know this next game [against Germany] could have

been a final at a World Cup. It's a great rival we are going to face." **A step too far in fairytale Georgia run** Georgia leave Germany having earned respect from their opponents after a fairytale progression to the knockout stages in their debut major tournament. They were urged to show no fear by manager Willy Sagnol - a former Bayern Munich and France full-back - and they did not, driving at Spain's backline on the counter-attack, dribbling with fearlessness and taking risks throughout. Goalkeeper Mamardashvili kept them in the game for more than 50 minutes until Ruiz's header gave Spain the lead, while Napoli's Kvaratskhelia provided stardust for them in attack. The scoreline does not flatter Spain given the number of chances they created - but perhaps does not tell the story of Georgia's flamboyance, and their own threat. "Sometimes you need to take time to look at what you have done. We can be very happy. The evolution of the team has been absolutely fantastic," said Georgia boss Willy Sagnol. "I'm very proud of that. Now it's the end of our journey but I'm sure the next one will be very exciting. I think all Georgians want one thing - and that is to come back." - Agencies

CONMEBOL COPA AMERICA

Mexico crash out after goalless draw with Ecuador



ARIZONA: Ecuador drew 0-0 with Mexico on Sunday to finish second in their Copa America group and set up a quarter-final against defending champions Argentina. The result meant Mexico went out of the competition as they finished third in Group B, with Ecuador finishing a place above them and progressing courtesy of a better goal difference. Mexico applied plenty of pressure in the latter stages as they chased victory and were awarded a penalty in the seventh minute of added time when Felix Torres was adjudged to have brought down Guillermo Martinez. But, after VAR asked the referee to review the incident, the decision was overturned as Tor-

res appeared to get a touch on the ball when making his challenge. "Whenever an objective is not meant, there is certain discomfort and doubts, that's only natural, no matter who's here," said Mexico manager Jaime Lozano following his side's elimination. "But the players kept believing until the very end, that's not easy. "That decision [about my future] is not up to me." Ecuador will play Argentina at on Friday. Venezuela beat Jamaica 3-0 to finish top of Group B and will take on Canada on Saturday in the last eight of the competition. Eduard Bello, Salomon Rondón and Eric Ramírez each scored for Venezuela, who also beat Ecuador and Mexico.

EURO 2024

Bellingham, Kane score as England edge Slovakia

GELSENKIRCHEN: Jude Bellingham produced a moment of genius to keep England in Euro 2024 as they survived another desperate display and a huge scare to beat Slovakia 2-1 in dramatic fashion to reach the last eight on Sunday. England were seconds away from an embarrassing exit in Gelsenkirchen as Slovakia defended a lead they had held since the 25th minute when Ivan Schranz raced into the box to poke a low finish past England keeper Jordan Pickford. It was then that Bellingham, who celebrated his 21st birthday on Saturday, demonstrated the brilliance that has made him England's new superstar by going airborne in the penalty area to send Marc Guehi's headed flick past Martin Dubravka with a stunning overhead kick. Bellingham rescued England from a performance that plumbed such depths that his goal was their first effort on target - but then set the platform for a victory as Slovakia, who had defended so stubbornly, were left stunned. And captain Harry Kane emphasised England's sudden superiority a minute into the extra 30 minutes when he headed home from close range to complete a remarkable turnaround and set



up a quarter-final meeting with Switzerland. England's display before Bellingham's wonder goal was another to add to the catalogue of mediocrity they have delivered under Gareth Southgate in Germany, even though Kane had missed an easy header and Declan Rice struck a post as they strived for the equaliser. **England's great escape** England's hopes looked lost as they went into the closing moments against Slovakia, with even their own fans reduced to subdued silence by the lack of quality and inspiration they had been forced to witness. Southgate and his players will have known what awaited them had Slovakia closed out a win that would surely have left the manager at the end of his reign and England nowhere to go other than to make a bitterly disappointing retreat from Germany. Bellingham, whose own poor performances and demeanour have come under scrutiny after England's draws against Denmark and Slovenia in Group C, then illustrated why is regarded as a new young superstar of the game with an audacious, acrobatic piece of individuality. Kane finished off the job with a trademark poacher's finish. - Agencies

FAST BOWLING MENTOR

Pacer Anderson to join England coaching set-up



LONDON: James Anderson will join the England coaching set-up as a fast-bowling mentor when he retires from Test cricket against West Indies at Lord's next week, BBC Sport reported on Monday. The 41-year-old, the most successful pace bowler in the history of Test cricket, will end his international playing career after England told him they want to move on. But England managing director Rob Key said: "He's got so much to offer English cricket. We don't want to see that go. "When we asked him, he was keen. He is going to have a lot of options. English cricket would be very lucky if he chooses to stay in the game." Anderson, who has taken 700 Test wickets, is currently playing for Lancashire against Nottinghamshire in the County Championship at Southport. He is yet to make a decision on his future with the Red Rose, but Key said Anderson will be with the England team "all summer".

THREE PLAYERS FROM AFGHANISTAN

Six India players included in ICC T20 World Cup 'Team of the Tournament'

NEW DELHI: After India's victory in the recently concluded T20 World Cup 2024, Rohit Sharma and five others were included in the team of the tournament named by the International Cricket Council (ICC). After India's stupendous show in the T20 World Cup 2024, six Men in Blue players have been included in the team of the tournament. The selection panel consisted of commentators Harsha Bhogle, Ian Bishop and Kass Naidoo and ICC General Manager of Cricket Wasim Khan. Rohit Sharma scored 257 runs at a strike rate of 156.7 and smashed three fifties after playing all the matches of the tournament. Rohit embraced India's new approach in T20Is and showed the way with his brilliant ball striking. The India skipper showed consistency as well while maintaining a brilliant strike-rate.



With two half-centuries and a vital 47 in the semi-final against England, Suryakumar Yadav had a good tournament from the middle order despite playing on some difficult batting wickets. India all-rounder Hardik Pandya made impactful cameos down the order with the bat and made breakthroughs with the ball when the Men in Blue needed him to. His most important contribution came in the final, when he stopped



a rampaging Heinrich Klaasen, deceiving him with a slower ball outside off-stump. Axar Patel's ability to adapt to different roles and make impactful performances proved critical to India's title-winning charge. In the final, promoted up the order, Axar made a brilliant, counter-attacking 47 that helped Virat Kohli settle in and play the anchor role. The Player of the Tournament Jasprit Bumrah was unstoppable

in the T20 World Cup 2024. More than the 15 wickets he took, his impact in restricting the scoring rate of teams made Bumrah India's most important player right through the tournament. His economy rate of 4.17 is the best ever by any bowler in a single edition of the men's T20 World Cup. Arshdeep Singh finished as the joint-highest wicket-taker in the tournament with 17 wickets in eight matches. The left-arm fast bowler was the perfect foil for Jasprit Bumrah with the ball and shone with his early powerplay spells. **Team of the tournament:** Rohit Sharma, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Nicholas Pooran, Suryakumar Yadav, Marcus Stoinis, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Rashid Khan, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Fazalhaq Farooqi. 12th man: Anrich Nortje. - ANI

IPL

Dinesh Karthik named RCB batting coach and mentor

BENGALURU: Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) announced former India cricketer Dinesh Karthik as their new batting coach and mentor on Monday. Karthik had played for RCB for the first time in 2015 and 2016. He scored a total of 326 runs in the 15 matches in the 2024 season at a strike rate of 187.36 but his impact went beyond just the number of runs he scored. The 39-year-old, who made his ODI debut for India as a 19-year-old in 2004, has vast batting experience of over two decades during which he played 26 Tests, 94 ODIs, and 60 T20Is for India. He also featured in 257 IPL games, scoring an aggregate of 4842 runs, including 22 fifties. Karthik said, "Coaching at a professional level is incredibly exciting for me and is something I'm truly passionate about as a new chapter in my life. Hopefully, the breadth of my experiences as



a player can contribute to the development of the group and bring added value." "I believe that cricket success hinges not only on technical proficiency but also on match intelligence and composure. I am eager to coach and mentor our batting group, helping them not only refine their method but also develop the keen match awareness needed to excel under pressure. It's also great that I can continue my association with RCB as the franchise continues to move from strength to strength," he added. - ANI

Saud Bahwan Automotive unveils Toyota’s stylish next-generation all-new Prado in Sultanate of Oman

The all-new Prado builds on its legacy of strength and reliability, blending the legendary Land Cruiser DNA with modern technologies to enhance both off-road and everyday performance

MUSCAT: Saud Bahwan Automotive recently hosted an exclusive event at the Grand Millennium Hotel to launch the highly anticipated all-new Toyota Prado. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Humaidi, Chairman of Muscat Municipality, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. The event also had Shunsuke Chijiwa, Group Manager, India and Middle East Division, Toyota Motor Corporation as the special guest alongside distinguished guests from various sectors.

The evening commenced with special highlights about the all-new Toyota Prado. The Toyota Prado is a legend in its own right. Its legacy, which began over seven decades ago with the introduction of the Toyota BJ, is marked by outstanding rough-road driving performance and ruggedness, famously demonstrated by reaching Mount Fuji’s sixth station at an altitude of 2,700 meters. Since then, the Prado has become synonymous with unparalleled off-road capability, inspiring performance, and legendary dependability.

In Oman, its popularity continues to soar. With each new introduction, the Prado not only proves its prowess but also solidifies its place among true off-road enthusiasts. Today, the all-new Prado features a striking retro design, exhilarating performance and unmatched capability.



The all-new Prado builds on its legacy of strength and reliability, blending the legendary Land Cruiser DNA with modern technologies to enhance both off-road and everyday performance. The vehicle continues to uphold Toyota’s global reputation for providing dependable transportation capable of tackling the toughest conditions.

Toyota’s mission for the Prado has been to ensure safety and reliability in even the harshest environments. Customer experiences worldwide have contributed to refining the Prado’s reliability, durability, and rough-road capabilities. The all-new Prado retains its robust body-on-frame construction and adopts Toyota’s GA-F platform, significantly enhancing off-road performance. It is also designed for easy manoeuvrability and comfort in conventional on-road driving, showcasing Toyota’s commitment to practicality and customer needs. This is the first Prado to feature an electric power steering (EPS) system, reducing kickback on rough surfaces and providing smoother, more direct steering and easier manoeuvrability at all speeds.

The all-new Prado will be available with a choice of 2.4 Litre Turbo Petrol and 2.8 Litre Turbo Diesel engines, paired with an 8-speed automatic transmission. The interior offers seven-seat configurations, designed to evoke the strength and functionality of a true off-roader. The all-new Prado is equipped with the latest Toyota Safety Sense systems within a comprehensive Toyota T-Mate package of advanced safety features and technologies, reducing the burden on the driver.

The all-new Toyota Prado is now on display at all Saud Bahwan Automotive showrooms.

CX LIVE AWARDS SHOW MIDDLE EAST

Bank Muscat wins Customer Experience Innovation Award

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial service provider in the Sultanate of Oman, was crowned with the Customer Experience Innovation Award at the CX Live Awards Show Middle East 2024, in recognition of its efforts in providing a distinctive experience to its customers through applying a comprehensive approach aimed at providing the best services to cater to their needs and aspirations.

Mohammed Sultan Al Habsi, Chief Representative Office, Bank Muscat, received the award on behalf of the Bank, during a glorious ceremony held in Dubai in the presence of a number of prominent industry figures from the Middle East and the world.

The award reflects Bank Muscat’s commitment to providing high-quality services and products to valued customers, whether through the Bank’s branches spread all over the country or through Mobile Banking and Internet Banking services. Customer satisfaction is a key focus of the Bank’s business as it is always keen to listen to customers’ suggestions and opinions, aligning with its vision and strategy while ensuring a unique and distinctive service. Bank Muscat is also committed to developing its traditional and digital channels to enhance financial inclusion and improve the customer experience. It always gives priority to data protection and privacy through controlling the collection and use of data, ensuring confidentiality, information security support.

Bank Muscat strives to enhance its digital channels to deal with customers’ feedback efficiently. These channels encompass Internet and Mobile Banking services, help desks, call center and website.



Bank Muscat has a dedicated team working under the Customer Experience Department which is aimed to support the Bank’s strategy of fostering a customer-centric culture by ensuring aligning its activities with the Bank’s values, strategic pillars and vision.

The department has a comprehensive workforce dedicated to overseeing all customer touchpoints and continuously enhancing the overall customer experience. By working on customer journey mapping, the department adopts proactive approaches to anticipate customer needs and close any experience gaps through quick wins, ensuring a seamless and satisfying banking experience.

The Bank also runs a robust Voice of the Customer (VOC) programme, gathering valuable insights to drive continuous improvements and innovation. Extensive collaboration is carried out between key departments within the Bank, ensuring that customer-centric decisions are at the forefront of all strategic initiatives as well as product and service design. Through a comprehensive approach, the work teams not only support the Bank’s strategic goals but also build strong, lasting relationships with customers, thereby driving customer satisfaction and loyalty.

In addition, Bank Muscat’s Contact Center has become today one of the most important and largest call centers in the banking sector in the Sultanate of Oman. It serves as a vital link between the Bank and customers, supervised by a specialized and competent Omani team, working around the clock throughout the year. The Center achieved a response speed of an average of 29 seconds during the last year, while handling about 8.24 million calls, messages and notifications annually through the Bank’s social media accounts in Arabic, English and Hindi. The Center uses an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system to process inquiries immediately. In culmination for this great role, Bank Muscat’s Contact Center has won a number of regional awards during the past period.

To enhance communication with customers, Bank Muscat was one of the first financial institutions to allocate special channels in social media, in order to provide the best banking services and facilities and open new channels to best communicate with customers. The Bank has accounts on the X and Instagram platforms, which enjoy a large base of followers. The Bank is also the first financial institution in Oman to introduce “WhatsApp” communication service by using the same contact center’s hotline 24795555. Customers can send their inquiries, and apply for various banking services via the line. This comes in order to keep abreast of all current and future technical developments, thus enhance direct and indirect communication with customers, work to process their transactions faster and at all times, and answer their queries on the services provided.

Furthermore, the Bank has adopted the “Customer Service Standards” which reflect its vision, values, culture and strategic objectives. The standards embody the Bank’s commitment to focus on customers by adhering to a set of principles in customer service: respect, confidentiality, transparency, choice and listening. Similarly, the Bank has launched the professional work behavior campaign, which is one of the important initiatives aimed at caring for customers and contributing to strengthening the relationship with them in order to provide better services every day.

Bank Muscat focuses on the development of the human element through holding specialized training courses on how to enhance the customer experience and operational efficiency at the same time. The Bank also emphasizes its commitment to transparency and keeping customers informed of any changes in the terms of banking services or offers that are broadcast through social media, email or SMS.

ROUND-UP

GAC launches summer service campaign for Mitsubishi customers

Through this summer promotion, GAC is not only encouraging customers to service their vehicles but also providing them with an opportunity to win an unforgettable vacation and enjoy attractive giveaways

MUSCAT: As Oman's scorching summer season gathers heat, General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor for Mitsubishi Motors in the Sultanate of Oman, is strategically launching an exciting summer campaign, offering Mitsubishi vehicle owners the chance to enjoy fantastic rewards and exceptional discounts.

Through this summer promotion, GAC is not only encouraging customers to service their vehicles but also providing them with an opportunity to win an unforgettable vacation and enjoy attractive giveaways.

Customers who service their Mitsubishi vehicles at any GAC service center during the campaign period will earn the chance to win a luxurious five-night stay at a 5-star hotel in Thailand. This incredible prize includes air tickets and a complete holiday package, promising the ultimate summer getaway.

In addition to the grand prize, GAC is offering several exciting giveaways:

- Two gift vouchers for a buffet at Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah
- Two RO 25 gift vouchers for Lulu Hypermarket
- Two gift vouchers for free vehicle service

Additionally, GAC is also announcing a 45 percent discount



on parts for all Mitsubishi vehicles under the campaign, demonstrating its commitment to providing outstanding value, while maintaining the highest standards of customer satisfaction.

Commenting on the campaign, ManojRanade, General Manager of GAC, said, "Our summer campaign is designed to reward our loyal customers with more than just excellent service. We want to offer them unique experiences and significant savings. At GAC, we strive to exceed customer expectations and this campaign is a testament to our dedication to enhancing the ownership experience for Mitsubishi patrons in Oman."

To participate in the summer campaign, Mitsubishi owners simply need to bring their vehicles in for servicing at any GAC service center.

SHARIA-COMPLIANT

Alizz Islamic Bank launches auto finance with no mortgage requirement

MUSCAT: As part of its efforts to meet customer needs by providing Sharia-compliant financial solutions, Alizz Islamic Bank has announced the ability to avail Auto Finance with no mortgage required. The offer does not require salary transfer for customers who will avail the auto finance offer via post-dated cheques (PDCs) and includes attractive profit rates.

The offer is available to all individual customers – Omanis and residents - from the public sector, semi-governmental or private sector institutions

Commenting on this new Auto Finance feature, Saif Abdullah Al Yahyai, Head of Retail Banking at Alizz Islamic Bank, said: "We continuously strive to understand the market and meet our customers' needs and that is why we introduced this new feature of having auto finance with no mortgage requirement in order to ease the process for the customer. At Alizz Islamic Bank we develop our offers, services and products based on a comprehensive approach to ensure a seamless customer experience journey."



Alizz Islamic Bank is proud to make the experience of its customers easy and flexible through the products and financing offers it provides and the bank has been focusing heavily on enhancing its banking solutions to meet the needs of all segments of society.

TRAVEL SEASON

Unlock rewards with NBO's New 'Spend & Earn' campaign for Badeel prepaid multi-currency travel card

MUSCAT: Continuing its commitment to reward loyal customers, National Bank of Oman (NBO) has announced the launch of its new 'Spend & Earn' campaign for Badeel Prepaid Multi-Currency Travel Card during the summer travel season.

The first 250 winning cardholders get a chance to receive a cashback of OMR 50 when they spend OMR500 or more in a month until September 4. This exciting new offer provides attractive cashback rewards and doubles the rewards on international transactions, reflecting NBO's dedication to innovation and customer satisfaction.

Maha Al Raisi, Assistant General Manager and Head of Retail Products at NBO, said: "At National Bank of Oman, we are committed to providing novel solutions that meet the ever-changing needs of our customers. Our 'Spend & Earn' campaign gives our customers access to a host of exclusive perks that simplify their financial journeys. What sets it apart is its exclusivity, as we are the sole provider of this innovative multi-currency prepaid card in the market and is available for all residents in Oman. Whether travelling for work or leisure, NBO's Badeel Multicur-



rency Travel Card offers a safe, easy, and cashless way to carry multiple foreign currencies in a single card. With this card, travellers can easily manage their finances, avoid currency exchange hassles, and enjoy peace of mind with enhanced security features making it their perfect travel companion."

The theme of the campaign, 'Spend like a local, anywhere, anytime,' signifies the essence of simplicity, convenience, security, and flexibility that the NBO Badeel Prepaid Multi-Currency Travel Card offers. Whether it's shopping, dining, or exploring new destinations, cardholders can enjoy the same ease and convenience as they would at home, regardless of where they are in the world.

This card can be activated through digital onboarding, the NBO app, Badeel Prepaid App or a self-service kiosk. Additionally, customers can enjoy instant card issuance through self-service kiosks or from branches, ensuring convenient access to our services.

This exclusive offer provides customers with added value and benefits for their everyday spending and international transactions.





pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water

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