

Military programme to inspire youth

Muscat - H H Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, launched the Military Discipline Programme on Thursday.

It will be hosted in Dhofar from June 30 to July 24.

Organised to inspire Omani youth and achieve national goals, the programme is supervised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth (MCSY), with support from military and security units and other government entities.

In a press statement, H H Sayyid Theyazin said the pro-

gramme stems from the keenness of the government, under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, to promote the values rooted in Omani society, notably youth who constitute a big part of the sultanate's population.

The Military Discipline Programme includes a set of engagements designed to instil national pride and identity and social values through a framework of sports activities that develop self-discipline and groom well-rounded personalities



Military Discipline Programme targets 700 young people from various governorates with the primary objective of making them role models in promoting national values

H H SAYYID THEYAZIN

among Omani youth, H H Sayyid Theyazin explained.

"In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, military and security departments and other government institutions, MCSY focused on factors of citizenship, identity, heritage and national culture when implementing the Military Discipline Programme, which comprises one of the objectives of Oman Vision 2040," said H H Sayyid Theyazin, noting that the programme also lays emphasis on initiatives that encourage developmental invest-

ment in the youth sector.

H H Sayyid Theyazin added that the programme targets 700 young people from various governorates with the primary objective of "making them role models in promoting national values".

Royal Army of Oman will oversee the military training programme, while Royal Air Force of Oman will handle trainees' air transport. Various military, security and civil units will contribute to the programme by providing awareness, education and lectures covering pertinent topics.



(Supplied photo)

Centre for robots, drones for agricultural use to be set up in Rumais

Our Correspondent Muscat

In a groundbreaking initiative aimed at transforming the agricultural sector, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR) signed an agreement with Ankaa Space and Technologies to establish a cutting-edge centre to manufacture drones and robots last week.

Speaking exclusively to Muscat Daily, Mohammed Salim al Riyami, Co-founder of Ankaa Space and Technologies, said, "This project is the first of its kind in the Gulf countries, aimed at stimulating the agricultural sector. The pact aims to establish a research centre to make robotics and drones for use in agriculture and fisheries."

Construction of the centre will commence in July on a 2,500sqm area within the Agricultural Research Centre in Rumais, Barka. "The project is estimated to cost RO250,000, and we anticipate completion within one year."

Elaborating on diverse functions of drones, including photography, reconnaissance, aerial surveys and spraying in agriculture, Riyami said, "This versatility has garnered significant attention from various industries, particularly agriculture."

In the realm of fish farming, drones and robots can play vital roles in monitoring lakes, swamps and coastal areas. "These are instrumental in detecting pollution or changes in water quality, and analysing data essential for making informed decisions aimed at safeguarding aquatic ecosystems and boosting productivity," Riyami informed.

The centre will also play an important role in boosting the agricultural sector through application of artificial intelligence



Our strategy includes manufacturing 80% of the drones and robots using Omani raw materials, while importing the remaining components from abroad

MOHAMMED SALIM AL RIYAMI

for crop management, utilising drones to spray pesticide, and conducting groundwater exploration. "This initiative aims to bolster support for farmers and the agricultural research sector. Robots will be employed to access challenging terrains beyond the reach of drones."

Addressing the challenges to the project, Riyami highlighted several key hurdles. "The biggest challenge was securing the fi-

nancial backing needed to establish the centre and sourcing spare parts for the manufacture of drones and robots. Finding young Omani engineers with expertise in technology and AI posed another significant challenge."

These challenges were addressed by forging a partnership with MAFWR. "Our strategy includes manufacturing 80% of the drones and robots using Omani raw materials, while importing the remaining components from abroad."

To cultivate local talent, Ankaa conducted extensive training courses and workshops on AI, benefiting numerous young Omani engineers and technicians. "As a result, we successfully identified and recruited 25 talented young Omani men who are now integral members of our team. They will form the core of our workforce when the centre launches next year. We are committed to employing 50 Omani youth annually in the technology sector."

Riyami hopes to expand the centre's benefit to other sectors such as oil and gas, geo surveying, remote sensing and space exploration.

Majlis A'Shura approves Personal Income Tax bill

Our Correspondent Muscat

Majlis A'Shura approved the draft law on Personal Income Tax and forwarded it to the State Council on Thursday completing the legislative cycle of the bill.

This was unveiled at the 12th regular session of the shura's first annual convening of 2023-2024.

The session was held under the chairmanship of H E Khalid

Hilal al Maawali, Chairman of Majlis A'Shura.

The session also discussed other topics, including a report filed by the committee tasked with education, research and innovation. The report deals with efforts to promote vocational and technical education.

The session also deliberated on proposals for establishing a wholesale market in Suhar, as well as views on recovering VAT

(value-added tax) levied against a beneficiary's first residential property.

Joint parliamentary session

The State Council and the Majlis A'Shura will hold their first joint session on Monday.

The joint session will be held under the chairmanship of H E Sheikh Abdulmalek Abdullah al Khalili, Chairman of State Coun-

cil, in the presence of H E Maawali.

Additionally, the session will discuss reports of joint committees regarding items of dispute in the draft bills of Bank Deposits Protection Law, the Law Regulating Trade in Wildlife and the Media Law. The session will vote on these items of dispute in accordance with procedures of conducting joint sessions between the two councils.

SAF TEAM TRIUMPHS IN BRITISH SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) Shooting Team has achieved remarkable success in the British Army shooting championships held at Bisley and Pirbright ranges in the United Kingdom from June 14 to 27. Competing against several international teams, the SAF team made an impressive haul of 18 cups and more than 20 medals in various group and individual competitions. In individual achievements, Capt Majid bin Mohammed al Salmani won the prestigious King's Medal (ONM)



Deal signed to develop 4-star resort in Fins

Our Correspondent Muscat

Ministry of Heritage and Tourism has signed a usufruct contract with Rihab Fins Tourism, a subsidiary of Sama Resorts Group, to develop a four-star tourist resort in the Fins area of Quriyat.

The project is part of the ministry's efforts to boost tourism investment and increase availability of quality tourist and hotel facilities, aiming to attract both local and international tourists.

The contract was inked by H E Salim Mohammed al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Touri-



(Supplied image)

sm, and a representative of the project-implementing company.

The planned resort will feature more than 100 hotel rooms catering to local tourism needs,

particularly for families. The design emphasises privacy and includes amenities such as restaurants, swimming pools, a multi-use hall, and recreational

activities to offer a distinctive tourist experience.

The project design takes into account the environmental aspects of the site, ensuring that local community benefits are maximised through employment programmes and the provision of tourism products with a focus on local content.

Fins, known for its turquoise waters and pebbled beach, is approximately a two-hour drive from Muscat. It offers breathtaking views of the coastline and serves as a peaceful retreat for campers looking to escape the hustle and bustle of city life.

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Al Rifaa

New fruit, vegetable market in Khazaen begins operations

Our Correspondent
Barka

Trial operations of Silal – Fruit and Vegetable Central Market in Khazaen Economic City began on Saturday, marking another step of the sultanate towards food security. This follows the re-location of operations from Mawaleh Central Market for Fruits and Vegetables.

Khazaen Economic City in Barka has stressed on the market's role as a pivotal platform for marketing, exporting, importing

and re-exporting of fruits and vegetables. It serves as a vital outlet for local agricultural produce, benefiting both agricultural companies and local farmers.

Salem bin Sulaiman al Dhahli, CEO of Khazaen Economic City, described the market as a national project that enhances Oman's position in the fruits and vegetables marketing and production sector. "The market provides investment opportunities with local added value," he stated.

The market features several

integrated facilities that will significantly develop the food logistics sector.

Mawaleh market to serve retail customers

Meanwhile, Muscat Municipality has assured customers that Mawaleh Central Market for Fruits and Vegetables will continue to provide services without interruption to retail customers.

Light vehicles can enter the market through Gate No 2 from Saturday to Thursday between 6am and 10pm.

Sri Lankan Roadshow in Muscat on July 5

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Muscat held an event on Wednesday at the Ambassador's residence to showcase opportunities available in travel, tourism, business and investments in the island state.

The Sri Lankan Roadshow, scheduled for July 5 at Oasis Mall, was announced at the event.

In collaboration with Sri Lanka Business Council Initiative, the embassy aims to promote Sri Lankan culture, tourism and trade under the theme 'Serendib - The Golden Island' among Omanis and expatriates in the sultanate. The roadshow aims to position Sri Lanka as a premier travel destination, attracting tourists from Oman during the summer vacation, while also showcasing the island's diverse culture and trade



(VK Shafeer)

On the occasion, PV Nadeesha S, Director, External Operations of Seylanya Holdings Pvt Ltd, said, "This roadshow is a fantastic opportunity to deepen the cultural and economic ties between our countries. We look forward to welcoming everyone to experience the rich heritage and vibrant trade of Sri Lanka."

The roadshow is expected to see 100 guests, including Omani government officials and diplomatic corps. It will feature cultural activities such as traditional Sri Lankan dance and music performances, a fashion show presenting traditional attire, and stalls promoting Sri Lankan trade products like Ceylon Tea and spices among others.

Having attracted approximately 800,000 tourists from around the world in 2024, Sri Lanka is emerging as a leading tourist destination.



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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Salalah Beach Tourism Development - A subsidiary of Muriya Tourism Development (SOAG) would like to invite competent and experienced companies to participate in the following Tender:

Tender No: 01/2024

Tender Title: Consultancy Services for Civil & Infrastructure Design for Amazi - Hawana Salalah Tender

Submission Closing Date: 21 July 2024

For details on the Tender Process as well as the Terms and Conditions Please visit www.hawanasalalah.com/Tenders

إعلان مناقصة

يسر شركة شاطئ صلالة للتنمية السياحية - إحدى شركات موربا للتنمية السياحية (ش.م.ع.) دعوة الشركات الهندسية من ذوي الخبرة للإشتراك في المناقصة التالية:

رقم المناقصة: 01/2024

اسم المناقصة: تقديم الخدمات الاستشارية لتصميم أعمال البنية التحتية والهندسية لمشروع أمازي - هوانا صلالة

آخر يوم لتقديم العروض: 21 يوليو 2024

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DRIVEWISE

JEREMY FOX IS A BRITISH DRIVING AND ROAD SAFETY EXPERT. SINCE 2009, HE HAS MANAGED THE DRIVER-TRAINING OPERATIONS OF TECHNICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING INSTITUTE. HE CONSIDERS IT HIS PRIVILEGE TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OMAN'S IMPROVED ROAD SAFETY.

In my days as a Police Traffic Officer in the UK, I spent much of my time attending road accidents of varying severity. Without doubt, one of the most common of all the numerous scenarios I investigated was collisions caused by drivers failing to create and maintain sufficient space in front of their vehicle.

The resultant collision is often referred to as a 'shunt' – ie someone ahead brakes and the driver behind is so close that he is unable to stop within the space he has available, so collides with the rear of the vehicle in front.

Although the result of poor frontal spacing is sadly inevitable, it's also easily avoidable.

Most of us who drive in Oman recognise that 'tailgating' – the term widely used to describe following too close – is a depressingly common sight.

So what can we do about it?

When you're following another vehicle, watch it pass a fixed object, such as a lamp post or traffic sign, then count two seconds, ('one thousand, two thousand' said at normal speed in English is about right). You should not have reached the selected fixed object before you've finished counting. If you have, you're probably too close.

If you're feeling tired or are an older driver with naturally slower reflexes, you should leave a bigger gap – maybe three

seconds, or even more. In this case you would say: 'one thousand, two thousand, three thousand', and so on.

The additional time created greatly increases the probability of being able to stop to avoid a collision, and also provides the opportunity to consider an alternative course.

It's SPACE which gives you time to THINK, and this can either help you

FOLLOWING DISTANCE

avoid a crash completely or greatly mitigate the impact speed and, therefore, the consequences.

I know what you're thinking: 'I don't have to worry too much because I've got anti-lock brakes (ABS) fitted to my car. That means I can stop quicker. Right? WRONG!

ABS systems are primarily designed to prevent the wheels from locking so you don't skid. This also preserves directional capability because it's only possible to steer if the front wheels are rotating.

So although ABS brakes assist control when braking, they will probably INCREASE your overall stopping distance, especially on a surface with poor grip.

Back to the main issue with some final important points to ponder:

- Always apply the 'Two-Second Rule' and extend this in slippery conditions or when you're tired or have a slow reaction time due to age or some other reason.
 - If someone 'steals' your frontal safety zone by pulling in front of you, make the same distance again by regulating your speed. Don't be tempted to tailgate simply to prevent your space being taken away.
 - Avoid being intimidated by a tailgater who wants you to close the gap in front of you. If you were on foot and a stranger began nudging you towards the edge of a cliff, would you not resist? Exactly, so don't let others bully you into compromising your safety.
 - However, you must never deliberately annoy other drivers by obstructing them when you could safely get out of their way.
 - Overall stopping distance comprises reaction time PLUS braking distance. If you don't concentrate sufficiently, you won't even start braking until it's too late.
 - If the road surface is wet, you should consider leaving at least TWICE the distance you would in the dry.
- And think about this: when you double speed you QUADRUPLE stopping distance.
- For all these reasons, remember: only a fool brakes the Two-Second Rule!
- Safe driving!

The views and opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Muscat Daily or Apex Press & Publishing

Omani researcher wins top honour at pharma symposium in Canada

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Abdullah Mohamed al Lawati from College of Medicine and Health Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) has brought recognition to the sultanate with his research presented at 2024 Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences and Controlled Release Society Symposium. It was hosted by University of Alberta in Canada earlier this month.

Speaking to *Muscat Daily* from Canada, he informed that he was awarded the first place for best scientific poster. A total of 102 posters were presented.

Lawati's research, titled *Prescription Patterns and Economic Analysis of Anticancer Medications for Breast Cancer Patients: Insights from a Three-Year Study at an Oncology Unit in the Sultanate of Oman*, began with the objective of elevating healthcare standards.

The symposium saw the participation of 400-500 delegates, representing numerous countries with major delegations from Japan, Thailand, USA, Aus-



Active engagement builds a strong foundation for medical research and enhances our approach to patient data

ABDULLAH MOHAMED AL LAWATI

tralia and Brazil. Participants included representatives from major Canadian universities - University of Alberta, University of Toronto, McGill University

and University of Manitoba, among others.

Lawati's standout research focused on breast cancer - a significant global health challenge ranking as the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women worldwide in 2018.

In Oman, it accounts for 32% of female cancer cases, representing the nation's second most common cause of death. Given its gravity, understanding prescription patterns and treatment costs within Oman is crucial.

The study helped analyse pat-

terns and expenditures, offering insights into global comparative studies while potentially identifying areas for intervention to enhance treatment quality.

"This retrospective cross-sectional study focuses on the prescription patterns of anticancer drugs among breast cancer patients at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital from January 2018 to January 2021. The sample comprises female patients aged 18 or older who underwent at least one treatment for breast cancer during this period," explained Lawati.

Revealing the findings, he said the majority of patients received an average of 4.73 anticancer drugs, with the Anthracycline, Cyclophosphamide and Docetaxel regimen being the most common, administered to 33.5% of the patients.

Cyclophosphamide emerged as the most frequently prescribed drug, followed by Doxorubicin and Docetaxel. Total drug expenditure on anticancer therapy during this period amounted to approximately RO1.655mn, with targeted therapy representing the majority

(75%) of spending, while chemotherapy and hormonal therapy accounted for 20% and 5%, respectively.

According to Lawati, comparative analysis suggests that the prescription patterns align with previous international studies, though differences may stem from varied drug prescription guidelines across settings.

"These findings underscore the importance of optimising drug utilisation to enhance resource efficiency and healthcare delivery, thus ensuring better treatment outcomes for breast cancer patients in Oman and beyond."

Drawing from his experience, Lawati noted the numerous advantages of such medical conferences. "They go beyond mere lectures, facilitating exchange of ideas and presentation of pertinent research by pharmaceutical sciences experts."

Highlighting the significance of diverse participation in medical conferences, Lawati said, "Active engagement builds a strong foundation for medical research and enhances our approach to patient data."

Rare meteorite enhances understanding of Moon's composition

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MHT) has announced the discovery of an exceptionally rare lunar meteorite weighing 59.5gm.

In a statement, MHT said scientific studies underscore the rarity of the meteorite found on February 5, 2020.

The discovery is anticipated to significantly enhance scientific knowledge and understanding of the characteristics and composition of the Moon's outermost layer and contribute to the field of meteorites and asteroids science.

According to chemical analysis of the sample, the primary minerals of the meteorite include plagioclase (70%), pyroxene (20%) and olivine (5%), with trace amounts of other minerals such as iron, troilite and manganese.

One of the meteorite's standout features is the clarity of its



outer crust, which bears the marks of combustion resulting from its entry into Earth's atmosphere. This process contributed to the formation of minerals like maskelynite and troilite.

Analysis also affirmed that the outer layer of the sample contains atoms of lunar dust.

"The finding of this lunar rock underscores the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism's ongoing commitment to documenting meteorites in Oman. Since 2001, in partnership with Natural History Museum in Bern, Switzerland, the ministry has

meticulously catalogued over 7,341 meteorite pieces weighing a total of more than 7,000kg. These meteorites originate from diverse celestial bodies - the Moon, Mars and fragments of asteroid belts."

Following completion of analysis, MHT ensures safety of these meteorite samples. The team has established a dedicated meteorite repository that adheres to international best practices for long-term preservation, sustainability and comprehensive scientific documentation of these invaluable specimens.

CDAA issues safety guidelines for hikers

Our Correspondent
Muscat

gear and checking the weather forecast before heading out'.

The authority added that there are 'important requirements', including hikers should carry emergency gear (such as a tent) for unexpected situations, illumination tools (headlamp/ flashlight), and pack extra clothing, nutrition, sufficient water, matches, lighter and a candle.

Hikers should also use sun protection (sunscreens, hat and sunglasses) and have navigation systems (map and compass) and carry first-aid supplies.

The authority also asked hikers and mountaineers to register their details on the NIDA app prior to venturing out on any adventure trip.

Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) has issued crucial safety guidelines for individuals engaging in mountain hiking and related activities.

In a statement, CDAA highlighted the importance of caution amidst Oman's breathtaking landscapes and challenging terrain.

To ensure a safe and enjoyable hiking experience, the authority advised hikers to follow safety instructions, 'choosing a trail suitable for your fitness level, familiarising yourself with the trail beforehand, informing your relatives about your route and location, wearing appropriate tracking

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Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health(Al Buraimi Hospital) invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tender:

Tender Ref.	Description	Last date for Collection of tenders Document	Last date for submission of tenders	Eligibility		Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)	Bidding Method
2024/2435	Refurbishment and Servicing of CO2 Cylinders At Buraimi Hospital	Before 11AM On 11/07/2024	Before 11AM On 30/07/2024	Specialized companies and institutions registered with the Tender Board	The Second Degree	R.O 25 Per set	Electronically via the Esnad system for electronic bidding

Please note the following:

- Companies wishing to participate in the tender can purchase the tender documents electronically through the website (etendering.tenderboard.gov.om), provided that they are registered in the system.
- Companies must submit their bids electronically via the above-mentioned website, provided that a Bid Commitment Declaration, and bids received without the required Declaration will not be considered.
- The concerned entity is not obligated to accept the lowest bid or any other bid.
- For inquiries related to the above tender, please contact the following:
- Through the website of the Esnad system for electronic tendering:(etendering.tenderboard.gov.om)

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'Aid for Trade' vital to help seize energy transition opportunities: WTO

Geneva, Switzerland - A World Trade Organisation (WTO) Secretariat report launched on Friday at the Global Review of Aid for Trade identifies the significant trade opportunities available to developing economies and least-developed countries (LDCs) as the world transitions to cleaner energy sources.

The report, titled 'Aid for Trade in Action: Supporting the transition to clean energy', emphasises the crucial role of development finance in helping these economies realise emerging opportunities in global value chains for products and services related to clean energy.

The report cites that clean energy adoption is surging, with energy sources such as wind, solar, hydropower, hydrogen and nuclear power now generating nearly 40% of global electricity. This share is expected to rise at an accelerated pace, as the cost of these technologies falls and economies ramp up action to meet their net-zero greenhouse gas emission targets. The report notes that this transition to clean energy presents an opportunity for developing economies and least-developed countries (LDCs) to expand trade volumes and achieve export diversification objectives.

The report furthermore underscores that Aid for Trade is already supporting the clean energy transition. Approximately US\$60bn, or 30% of all Aid for Trade commitments with climate objectives between 2011 and 2021, was channelled into the energy sector. However, this remains insufficient in the context of overall climate finance flows. Developing economies and LDCs currently receive less than one-fifth of global clean energy investments, hindering their ability to fully capitalise on trade opportunities and realise the ambition of their own nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

The report identifies three key segments of the clean energy value chain where developing economies could integrate more fully into global trade: minerals and metals, machinery and equipment manufacturing, and services. It also looks at development opportunities related to carbon credits and the possible benefits of utilising carbon capture and storage systems to reduce the carbon intensity of existing export baskets.

In the context of minerals and metals, more support could help developing economies and LDCs with significant resources (for example, in critical minerals) attract investments in safe and sustainable extraction facilities. Additionally, the manufacture of clean energy equipment is expected to exceed US\$1tn by 2050. This presents opportunities for these economies to become hubs in manufacturing value chains. Developing services sector operations related to clean energy generation could also boost cross-border trade prospects, generate growth opportunities and help create jobs.

The report examines specific opportunities in five clean energy value chains: wind, solar photovoltaic (PV), green hydrogen, hydropower and nuclear power. It provides examples and case studies of how Aid for Trade is helping developing economies realise opportunities in each area, and how it can address some of the challenges that impede greater value chain participation.

The report concludes with a recommendation to further align Aid for Trade with clean energy opportunities. By mobilising the necessary financial resources, building trade capacity and fostering international cooperation, the global community can help to ensure a just and inclusive transition to a cleaner, more sustainable future for all.

The report's authors Michael Roberts and Vishvanathan Subramaniam from the WTO's Aid for Trade Unit highlighted at the report's launch the importance of greening the energy sector, both for climate action and to unlock trading opportunities for developing economies.

"The energy sector is absolutely critical for a net-zero transition: it accounts for 75 percent of greenhouse gas emissions," Roberts said. "The clean energy transition is a trade and development opportunity, and these opportunities occur in various value chains," Subramaniam added. "Realising these opportunities requires financing, and Aid for Trade can play an integral role in helping developing economies realise this financing."

The World Meteorological Organisation's (WMO) climate and energy lead, Dr Roberta Boscolo, noted that global warming is causing fluctuations in energy supplied by renewable sources.



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Sukuk MENA market expands

Dubai, UAE - The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) market for Sukuk has continued to expand in the first six months of 2024, while the Islamic loan market has seen a decline, according to data from Bloomberg's Capital Markets League Tables.

Growth in Sukuk has been primarily driven by ESG-related and sovereign issuances, reflecting issuer initiatives to broaden their funding base and capitalise on increasing investor interest in Islamic finance portfolios.

Volumes for ESG-related Sukuk, where funding is allocated to green and social projects, increased by 48% year-on-year in the first six months of 2024 to reach US\$6.2bn from 8 issuances. Saudi Arabia was the leading issuer, accounting for US\$3.98bn from five Sukuk, with the UAE representing the remaining US\$2.25bn.

The region's banks were the driver, with a notable debut issuance from Emirates Islamic Bank (US\$750mn). The positive trend reflects the commitment of Islamic finance in the region to ESG investing, in relation to the significant climate finance announcements made by the UAE during COP28 last year.

The Islamic loan market, however, has lagged behind the uptick in bond issuance during the first half of 2024, despite offering competitive rates and terms, compared to conventional loans.

Islamic loan volumes in the MENA region floated around US\$13.35bn in H1 2024, a 21% year-on-year decrease, reflecting the level of activity seen in the bond market since the pandemic.

Omran gets strategic membership in WEF champions community

Dalian, China - Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group) has been inducted into the World Economic Forum (WEF) New Champions Community, informed OMRAN.

This exclusive membership underscores the group's commitment to transformative growth and innovation, further cementing its status as a global leader in tourism sector.

Omran's membership was secured during the 15th Annual Meeting of the New Champions in Dalian, People's Republic of China, during June 25-27.

This year's meeting, themed 'Next Frontiers for Growth', convenes over 1,500 high-level leaders from diverse fields, including business, government, civil society, and international organizations, alongside prominent entrepreneurs, innovators, and academics. This prestigious gathering aims to generate collective insights and actionable solutions, offering a unique platform for collaboration among global leaders to foster and sustain positive economic momentum.



Omran Group's membership in the WEF New Champions Community is a testament to its exceptional growth, transformative mindset, and solid reputation. The community, limited to the top 100 mission-driven companies from 45 countries and more than 30 sectors, is designed to recognize and support mid-sized companies driving positive change and implementing innovative solutions in today's complex global landscape.

This membership provides Omran and the country with unparalleled access to a global network of leading companies, key decision-makers, and influential figures across various sectors.

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SEALED TENDER		
Tender Code	RCC/PRO/2024-001: SALE OF SCRAP	
Tender Title	SALE OF SCRAP FOR THE INDUSTRIAL / EQUIPMENT PARTS/ VEHICLES PARTS ETC	
Tender date	30.06.2024	
Collection start	30.06.2024	
Closing Date	4.07.2024 @ 2.00PM	
Tender Brief	RCC PLANT SCRAPES FOR SALE: Sealed tenders are invited from Industry owners, Scrap Dealers, Individuals and others who are interested in buying MS Scrap, Used tyres, Electrical equipment parts, Heavy duty casting parts, Woven Sack Bags & Other Plastic Scraps.	
	TENDER FEE: Nil	
	ADDITIONAL DOC: NIL	
Tender Scope & Procedure	Items Categories Name of Scrap Item Categories: a) Used mechanical scrapes (MS Scraps, SS Scraps, Used tyres, Heavy duty casting parts, Vehicle parts etc) b) Used Electrical scrapes (Used motor, Cables, Battery & other electrical parts etc) c) Process items scrapes. (Woven Sack Bags, Other Plastic Scrap & Wooden items) Procedure for quoting price: a) The offer price shall be quoted for each category of scrapes. b) Quote pricing: Per kgs. c) The tender shall be awarded based on the highest offer received for individual scrapes. d) The successful bidder would be decided based on the highest offer received & 100% advance. e) payment with tax to be made to Raysut Cement Company (SAOG) before lifting the scrap. f) All bills payable as per RCC weigh bridge weight report which is weighed as final. g) Cleaning: After removal of the scrapes, Complete area need to be cleaned.	
Scrape lifting time:	Within 60 days from the date of awarding the order. Saturday to Thursday 8.00AM to 5.00PM	
Rate validations:	The rate quoted will be valid up to 02 months from the date of awarding the order. The rate contract can be extended for another 2 months on mutual agreement and the terms & conditions shall remain same.	
Focal point & Contact Details	Focal point & Site Visit: Mr. Muneer Baabood is a focal point if any bidders want to inspect the scrap yard from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. E Mail: muneer.baabood@raysutcement.com.om Mob : 93204417 Tel: (968) 23221437 Extn 437 Sealed Tenders are invited by Raysut Cement Company (S.A.O.G.) Salalah, Sultanate of Oman. Any tenders received beyond the above closing period/date, then it will not be considered.	
Location of Sealed Tender submission	Procurement Department Raysut Cement Company, Salalah Raysut Industrial Area, Post Box : 1020, Postal Code : 211. Salalah – Sultanate of Oman Procurement Department: Office hours 7:00-15:00 hours.	

EDO issues \$750mn Sukuk: CFO Mamari

Muscat - Energy Development Oman (EDO) has announced the issuance of a US\$750mn Sukuk.

The issue was more than four times oversubscribed, reflecting strong investor confidence in both Oman and EDO as its national energy champion.

Investor participation was widespread, with over 115 orders from Europe, the UK, the US, the Middle East, and Asia.

The Sukuk was successfully priced at a profit rate of 5.662% with a term of seven years. This marks EDO's second Sukuk issuance, following a previous deal



Sultan al Mamari

in September 2023 for ten years at a profit rate of 5.875%.

Commenting on the new issue, EDO's Chief Financial Officer Sultan al Mamari said, "This

is a significant milestone, our second issuance in the last nine months. Our latest Sukuk deal is at a significantly lower profit rate, representing savings for EDO and the country."

He added, "The outcome underscores international investors' endorsement of our ongoing commitment to bolster Oman's energy strategy. We deeply appreciate the trust our investors have placed in us, highlighting our robust creditworthiness and our transformation into a fully integrated energy enterprise."

Standard & Poor's and Fitch

have assigned a BB+ rating to the senior unsecured Sukuk Al Ijara/Murabaha, which has been priced with a spread of 1.35% over US Treasuries. These trust certificates will be issued within the framework of EDO Sukuk Limited's trust certificate issuance programme. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank PJSC, Bank Muscat SAOG, Citigroup Global Markets Limited, Dubai Islamic Bank PJSC, Emirates NBD Bank PJSC, HSBC Bank plc, J P Morgan Securities plc, Mashreqbank psc, and Standard Chartered Bank collaborated for the issuance.

DEWA's complex receives 'LEED Platinum'

Dubai, UAE - Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA)'s Accommodation Complex in Warsan has received the Platinum Rating in the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) awarded by the US Green Building Council (USGBC).

This makes it the first multi-family project in the world to receive this international certification, achieving 80 points under LEED Homes v4.1. This new accomplishment increases the number of DEWA's buildings that have earned LEED ratings to 10 and consolidates DEWA's efforts to reduce carbon emissions



in Dubai and achieve net zero.

Saeed Mohammed al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA, said, "We work to achieve the wise directives of His Highness Sheikh Mo-

ammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, to consolidate the foundations of sustainability as a main component of

the development journey and make Dubai a smart and sustainable city and the best city to live in worldwide.

"This supports the 'Dubai Quality of Life Strategy 2033', to establish Dubai as a global leader in quality of life. DEWA is one of the first organisations in Dubai to adopt the concept of green buildings. In 2019, DEWA achieved a global milestone, represented by Dubai getting the Platinum Rating in the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for Cities certification awarded by USGBC."

WAM

AD Ports, International Trade Centre sign strategic agreement to enhance trade

Geneva, Switzerland - AD Ports Group and the International Trade Centre (ITC), the joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization (WTO), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cooperate on trade facilitation, digital trade, logistics and transport through policy dialogue, digital trade solutions, capacity building, experience sharing and technical assistance.

The MoU was signed on Friday by Captain Mohamed Juma al Shamisi, Managing Director and Group CEO, AD Ports Group, and Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director, ITC.

Under the MoU, the two entities will use various solutions to simplify trade, improving the efficiency of the transport, maritime, ports and logistics sectors in the United Arab Emirates, countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and developing countries. Both parties will review frameworks and policies across these sectors to evaluate their effectiveness and develop and upgrade border services in line with international best practices. AD Ports Group and ITC will provide technical assistance for developing and least developed countries (LDCs), including on the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) for faster and smoother cross-border trade.

The cooperation will also see AD Ports Group and ITC make trade more inclusive and conducive to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), while



The agreement was signed by Captain Mohamed Juma al Shamisi (left) and Pamela Coke-Hamilton, on Friday

We're extremely excited to be the first ports and logistics entity to sign such an MoU with ITC. This move strengthens our relationships with international trade organisations

CAPTAIN MOHAMED JUMA AL SHAMISI

fostering dialogue and consensus-building. Both sides will provide advisory support to design SMEs-led trade strategies and business solutions and promote women traders' role in trade facilitation with empowerment programmes and initiatives.

The parties will then promote joint services and solutions and

jointly participate in events, conferences and workshops in customs digitalisation, trade facilitation, ports, maritime and logistics. Furthermore, they will share experiences, networks, capacity building and training on key areas of trade facilitation and customs excellence.

Captain Mohamed Juma al

Shamisi, Managing Director and Group CEO, AD Ports Group, said, "We're extremely excited to be the first ports and logistics entity to sign such an MoU with ITC, demonstrating AD Ports Group's value proposition. This move strengthens our relationships with international trade organisations, opens new global investment opportunities, and promotes the United Arab Emirates' economic diversification in line with our wise leadership's vision. Our cooperation with ITC in the area of trade facilitation services and solutions will make transactions smoother, enabling us to integrate more small businesses into value chains and im-

prove our overall efficiency. ITC shares our value and stance regarding sustainability and we're fully confident that by working together we can help each other reach our environmental goals."

Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director of ITC, said, "Digital is changing the way small businesses of developing countries trade, making information available in a timely manner, and making cross-border trade faster, easier and more environmentally friendly. Through our new partnership with AD Ports Group, we look forward to leveraging their technology and advanced trade facilitation solutions to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs."



Nasdaq gains 18%, S&P rises 14% in first half of 2024

Istanbul, Türkiye - The Nasdaq gained more than 18% while S&P 500 increased over 14% in the first half of this year, despite the US stocks closing lower on Friday, the last trading day of June. The S&P 500 declined 22 points, or 0.41%, to finish the session at 5,460 but the index rose 14.5% in January-June period.

The Nasdaq fell 126 points, or 0.71%, to end the day at 17,732. The tech-heavy index gained 18.1% in the first six months of 2024.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, meanwhile, lost 45 points, or 0.12%, to close at 39,118. The blue-chip index added 3.8% in the first half of this year.

The VIX volatility index, also known as the fear index, rose 1.6% to 12.44. The 10-year US Treasury yield added 2.35% to 4.388%.

The dollar index shed 0.02% to 105.88, while the euro increased 0.08% to US\$1.0711 against the greenback.

Precious metals were mixed, with gold losing 0.1% to \$2,325 per ounce but silver adding 0.55% to US\$29.13.

Oil prices were down around 0.3%, with global benchmark Brent crude at US\$84.95 and US benchmark West Texas Intermediate at US\$81.51.

Tax reporting rules for digital assets

The US Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) released the final regulations of tax reporting requirements on Friday for brokers and sales and exchanges of digital assets.

The regulations will require cryptocurrency brokers to report gross proceeds on the sale of digital assets beginning in 2026 for sales in 2026, it added. 'Because of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, investors in digital assets and the IRS will have better access to the documentation they need to easily file and review tax returns,' Acting Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy Aviva Aron-Dine said. 'By implementing the law's reporting requirements, these final regulations will help taxpayers more easily pay taxes owed under current law, while reducing tax evasion by wealthy investors.'

The new regulations were developed after the Treasury Department and the IRS held a public hearing in response to the proposed rules.

'Monetary tightening will slow US economy'

Istanbul, Türkiye - Monetary tightening will eventually slow American economy further, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond said.

"In March 2022, we kicked off our steepest tightening cycle in decades, raising the federal funds rate over 500 basis points in under 18 months," Tom Barkin said in a speech at Global Interdependence Center's Central Banking Series held in Paris, France.

"But overall, despite higher rates, banking turmoil and geopolitical challenges, the US economy has not seen a broader

slowdown," he added.

American economy expanded 1.4% in the first quarter of 2024, according to the Commerce Department's third and final reading released Thursday. The figure is slightly revised up from the second reading of 1.3% made last month.

While the figure is significantly down from the 3.4% expansion recorded in the fourth quarter of 2023, the US economy has managed to avoid a recession despite the monetary

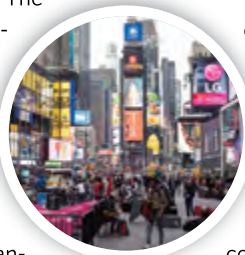
tightening.

Barkin noted that American consumers make up nearly 70% of the US GDP, and said their strength has been 'remarkable'.

"Real wages have increased, especially for entry-level workers. Unemployment is low. In short, feeling wealthier and more stable, consumers seem to be comfortable spending more and saving less," he said, noting that saving rate stands at 3.6%, less than half of what it was before the corona virus pandemic.

"So, the US economy, particularly its consumer, has been much more resilient to (interest) rate increases than most expected and is likely to stay so as long as valuations remain elevated, and unemployment remains low," he added.

Anadolu News



Al Maktoum airport pioneering Dubai's future

Dubai, UAE - Dubai's new Al Maktoum International Airport (DWK) is a testament to the emirate's vision for the future and its ambition for global leadership in travel.

The airport, designed to handle up to 260mn passengers annually, is set to significantly boost Dubai's economic growth, with passenger traffic in the emirates anticipated to increase by over 4 percent in the coming years.

As a cornerstone of Dubai and the UAE's economic development, Al Maktoum International will attract more investments, create new job opportunities, and stimulate various economic sectors.

Kamil al Awadhi, Regional Vice President for Africa and the Middle East at the International Air Transport Association, stated to the Emirates News Agency (WAM) that the UAE is a leader in the aviation sector,



emphasising that the new airport will support the rising number of visitors, projected to grow by 4% annually in the coming years. Khaled al Issawi, Director of the Gulf and Near East Region at IATA, highlighted that the growth rate of aviation in the UAE, particularly in Dubai, is among the highest globally. He stressed the importance of planning for the future over the

next 20 to 30 years to accommodate this growth.

Adel Ahmad al Redha, Chief Operating Officer of Emirates Airlines, said the establishment of Al Maktoum Airport will positively impact Dubai's economy and support Emirates Airlines' future expansions, adding that the airport's capacity to manage the increasing number of passengers will be crucial for

the airline's growth.

Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports, stated that the new airport will revolutionise airport operations to make travel more convenient for passengers.

Cushman & Wakefield, a global real estate services company, forecasts that residential and commercial properties near the airport will become more popular, while Knight Frank, an international real estate consulting firm, emphasised the significant impact this expansion will have on the real estate market.

Standard & Poor's Global credit ratings agency noted that the project would influence the city's economy and the real estate sector, especially in nearby areas. Savills, another global real estate services company, also expects that the airport expansion will spur the development of numerous infrastructure projects in its vicinity.

شركة سياحة الصحراء ش.م.ع.ع

Sahara Hospitality Co. (S.A.O.G.)

P.O. Box 311, Muscat, Postal Code 100, Sultanate of Oman.

DIRECTORS' REPORT THE SECOND QUARTER ENDED ON MAY 31, 2024

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to submit the unaudited Financial Statements of the company for the second quarter ended on May 31, 2024 along with related reports.

Revenue was RO 6,330,186 as against RO 5,804,924 in the corresponding period in the previous year whereas net Profit after taxes for the period was RO 1,380,923 as against RO 1,171,068 in the previous year.

The total shareholders fund increased from RO 26,341,186 at the end of May 2023 to RO 27,132,693 at the end of May 2024 and as a result of this growth, the net assets per share has recorded RO 3.424.

On behalf of the Board of directors, I express our most sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq Bin Taimour Al Said for his wise leadership and generous support to the private sector. Furthermore, I would extend our gratitude to his government for their co-operation and assistance with special mention of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Muscat Security Market and Capital Market Authority.

I conclude this report by expressing our appreciation to our shareholders, Petroleum Development Oman, our bankers and customers for their valued support and cooperation.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors,

TALAL BIN QAIS AL ZAWAWI
CHAIRMAN

Unaudited consolidated Statement of Financial Position		
as at 31 st May, 2024		
	2024	2023
	RO. '000	RO. '000
Fixed Assets	15,076	14,327
Current Assets		
Inventories	24	26
Trade & Other Receivables	5,789	5,112
Receivable from related party	59	23
Bank and Cash	9,983	8,806
	15,855	13,967
Total Assets	30,931	28,294
Current liabilities		
Trade and other Payables	537	655
Payables to related parties	2,779	869
Lease liability	22	22
Tax liability	234	200
	3,572	1,746
Long-term liabilities		
Lease liability	12	34
Deferred Tax liability	193	155
Employees' end of service benefits	21	18
	226	207
Total Liabilities	3,798	1,953
Net Assets	27,133	26,341
Shareholder's Fund		
Share Capital	7,923	7,923
Legal Reserve	2,641	2,641
Retained Earnings	16,569	15,777
Total Shareholders' Equity	27,133	26,341

Unaudited consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income		
For 6 months ended 31 st May, 2024		
	2024	2023
	RO. '000	RO. '000
Turnover/Revenue	6,330	5,805
Gross Profit	1,712	1,559
Other Income	204	106
Administration & General Expenses	(287)	(283)
Operating Profit	1,629	1,382
Finance Charges	(4)	(4)
Profit before taxation	1,625	1,378
Taxation	(244)	(207)
Net Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	1,381	1,171

The complete accounts in either Arabic or English will be delivered to any shareholder within 7 days of receipt of the request. Such request may be sent to the Board Secretary, Sahara Hospitality Co. (S.A.O.G.), P.O.Box: 311, Postal Code -100, Muscat.

TALAL BIN QAIS AL ZAWAWI
CHAIRMAN

00184 CS No. 1/0271/17

BankDhofar launches Private Banking segment

BankDhofar launched its private banking segment to serve high net worth individuals, entrepreneurs, and their families. The launch further demonstrates the bank's commitment to lead wealth management in Oman, by offering world class wealth solutions, private banking expertise, an extensive network in the country and access to full range of banking capabilities.

The launch event, held at St Regis Al Mouj Muscat, marks a significant milestone in BankDhofar's ongoing commitment to offer a holistic banking experience with the aim of delivering sustainable long-term value to its clients, a press release said.

The segment is dedicated to offering specialised core and non-core banking services, as well as a personalised wealth and lifestyle management proposition for Ultra High Net Worth Individuals, families, and corporate clients. It promises tailored solutions to nurture and grow wealth in a secure and prudent manner with complete privacy and confidentiality.

Bank Dhofar's Private Banking bespoke services in Oman include Need Based Solutions that meet the needs of clients, including bespoke lending, and investment products and propositions like mutual funds, bonds, portfolio management services, insurance and access to structured products, alternative investments, and a direct equity execution platform. The bank will provide exclusive insights to support its client's decision making through exclusive access to private banking investment insights.



Other services include a team of dedicated relationship managers, investment advisors and product specialists supporting wealth planning for individuals and family offices. With a commitment to go beyond expectations, the approach begins with a detailed review of clients' circumstances and financial goals, including short and long-term financial objectives. These are meticulously carried out by the bank's experienced private bankers.

The segment will aim to be a complete financial concierge service, managing banking needs on a 360-degree level by addressing both onshore domestic and offshore international needs. These include the offering of services including core banking, wealth management, investment advisory and offshore banking. Wealth and business succession planning, key-person insurance, trust solutions, and the establishment of foundations and family offices, will also play a significant role in the new business.

Through its private banking, the bank also aims to leverage the bank's thirty-four years of local expertise with global partners to offer unmatched solutions across geographies. The segment will also provide global access to investments - with a diverse list of shrewdly selected opportunities across key asset classes - through mutual funds, local and international bonds and equities. Clients can also access some of the most sought-after alternatives in the market, ranging from hedge funds to strategies that involve real estate, private credit and venture capital, thus ensuring clients receive unparalleled access to well researched financial solutions. With booking centers in Switzerland and Singapore respectively, and independent custody of client assets, the segment intends to offer a safe global approach with a local presence.

The family office services focus on crafting a legacy that goes beyond financial success. Expert advisors work closely with

clients to develop comprehensive financial plans covering wealth preservation, estate and succession planning, and strategic investment strategies. The segment also assists in setting up and overseeing charitable foundations, ensuring clients' legacies positively impact their communities.

With the belief of empowering the next generation, bespoke benefits and privileges designed for diverse passions, have been curated. Elite VIP experiences in fashion, art, musical and sporting events, and enhanced VIP concierge services, with a dedicated concierge manager, are designed to enrich and enhance the client's lifestyle experience. This ensures the bank introduces many "firsts" in the Sultanate through the segment; the first metallic card offered by a local bank with loaded card features, benefits as well as a dedicated VIP concierge service to name a few.

K Gopakumar, deputy CEO, said, "Entrepreneurialism and innovation are fuelling both economic growth and significant wealth creation in Oman. We are excited to partner with our clients to protect and grow their wealth and support their ambitions for their families, businesses, and legacies. Our clients are looking for highly customized solutions, innovative digital services, and resources to address the growing complexities of multi-generational wealth. The launch of private banking will provide robust solutions across the wealth spectrum with world class investment solutions and dedicated private banking teams.



MoH launches National Medical Devices manual

The Ministry of Health (MoH), represented by the Department of Infection Prevention and Control at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, last week launched the first edition of the National Medical Devices Reprocessing Manual.

The inauguration ceremony was held under the auspices H E Dr Hilal Ali al Sabti, Minister of Health, in the presence of a num-

ber of representatives of the health sectors, director generals, hospital directors, heads of departments as well health workers of various related specialties.

The ceremony was accompanied by a two-day training programme in which 200 participants received training on the policies and work procedures included in the Medical Devices Reprocessing Manual.

Dr. Amal Al Ma'nei, director general of Center for Disease Control and Prevention reviewed the importance of sterilisation services in health institutions and their effective role in protecting all patients by providing sterilisation services for medical and surgical tools and supplies used. Dr Ma'nei further gave a brief of the process of forming a medical and surgical sterilisation programme.

India-Oman business meet held

The Embassy of India organised a successful India-Oman Business-to-Business (B2B) Meet on June 26 which witnessed the participation of 23 visiting Indian companies from the Agriculture, Processed Food, Spices, Engineering, and Construction sectors, led by the Chairperson of IGTD Exim Chamber of Commerce, along with 40 Omani companies.

This meeting facilitated direct interactions between Indian exporters and Omani importers, focusing on the aforementioned sectors. The Indian and Omani companies engaged in fruitful



discussions, exploring opportunities for enhanced bilateral trade and mutual growth, a press release said.

H E Amit Narang, Ambassador of India, highlighted the robust commercial relations between India and Oman.

White coat ceremony held for NUST graduates

The College of Pharmacy, National University of Science and Technology (NUST) organised a white coat ceremony under the patronage of Dr Ahmed al Mandhari, undersecretary of Ministry of Health for Planning and Health Organisation, on June 27.

College of Pharmacy was established as Oman Medical

College in 2003 in academic partnership with West Virginia University, USA. It is the first private Pharmacy College licensed by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and the Ministry of Health in the Sultanate of Oman currently offering Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm) and MSc in Clinical

Pharmacy programmes. More than 800 pharmacists have graduated from the College of Pharmacy till date.

Prof Khalid al Balushi, dean, College of Pharmacy, said, wearing the white coat and undertaking the pharmacy oath is the start of their professional career which should be bound with professional ethics.

Review of health action plan conducted

The National Committee for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases held its fourth meeting last Thursday chaired by H H Sayyida Muna bint Fahad al Said at the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth Affairs. The meeting was attended by high level dignitaries and members of the committee.

The members discussed crucial issues and set plans for the review and update of the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases. The national action plan, a multisectoral initiative, was launched along with the National Policy for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in 2018. It covers activities related to preventing and controlling the burden of behavioural risk factors such as tobacco use, the



consumption of unhealthy diets, and physical inactivity.

Additionally, the plan includes action strategies to control diseases with the highest mortality rates, such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and

chronic respiratory diseases.

The meeting also featured a presentation and discussion on key recommendations provided by a group of WHO experts in the field of nutrition, who were hosted by the Ministry of Health

in mid-June. These recommendations aim to enhance efforts in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases through improved dietary practices and increased awareness of the importance of nutrition.

Mitsubishi offers deal on Montero Sport

General Automotive Company (GAC), the authorised distributor of Mitsubishi Motors in Oman, is extending its 'season of celebration' with an unbeatable deal on the comfortable and powerful Montero Sport SUV.

With a starting price of just RO12,995, including VAT, the Montero Sport is crafted to offer a seamless and accessible ownership experience. This attractive pricing is valid until stocks last, making it the perfect time for customers to elevate their summer adventures with Mitsubishi, a press release said.

Additionally, to ensure peace of mind, the Montero Sport comes with a comprehensive 6-year unlimited kilometres warranty, underscoring Mitsubishi's



commitment to quality and customer satisfaction.

Commenting on the extended season of celebration, Manoj Ranade, General Manager of GAC, said, "The festive

mood continues at GAC and we are thrilled to present this special deal on the Montero Sport. This model exemplifies Mitsubishi's commitment to delivering vehicles that combine

power, comfort, and advanced safety features. We are confident that this offer will provide our customers with an exceptional driving experience and unbeatable value.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF
HIS EXCELLENCY
SAYYID ABDULLAH BIN
HAMED AL BUSAIDI



YOU WILL REMAIN WITH US FOREVER

Deeply mourned and missed by



Muscat Chapter of the Institute of
Chartered Accountants of India
(Under the sponsorship of CBFS)

International SOS alerts Omani companies amid heatwaves

International SOS, world's leading health and security services company, alerts companies in the Sultanate of Oman to ensure safety of the workforce with heatwaves expected to become more severe globally.

As heatwaves are most dangerous natural hazards, it can cause extreme health and safety risks for workers. Almost half of the global population, including over one billion workers,¹ are at risk of being exposed to high-heat episodes due to higher-than-normal temperatures and heatwaves, which have already been recorded in June 2024 and this year's April being the hottest April on record.

Heatstroke, dehydration and heat exhaustion are just some of the dangers workers face in extreme heat conditions. These conditions can lead to decreased productivity, increased accidents and even fatalities.

Annually, 22.85mn occupational injuries and 18,970 work-related fatalities are attributable to excessive heat.

Workers across various sec-



tors are impacted by extreme weather events, however, certain occupations are especially at risk as they involve more physical effort and/or take place outdoors.

Industrial workers in indoor settings are also at risk if temperature levels inside factories and workshops are not regulated properly. At high heat levels, per-

forming even basic office and desk tasks can be challenging as it can cause mental fatigue, while physiological and cognitive abilities can decline due to heat strain.

It is important for organisations to be able to distinguish the different stages of heat-related illness. Heatstroke is the most severe heat illness

DR EHAB CHALABIE

Exposure to excessive heat can also lead to serious health risks, including heatstroke and even death. Proactive measures from organisations are crucial to mitigate these risks and safeguard worker wellbeing and productivity.

Dr Ehab Chalabie, Medical Director, Medical Services, Middle East, International SOS, said that the growing intensity and frequency of heatwaves pose a significant challenge for workforce health and safety. Occupational heat stress used to be primarily an outdoor concern, but with rising temperatures, even indoor

workplaces without proper ventilation can become dangerous, he cautioned.

"Organisations must go beyond basic heat stress prevention and integrate heat stress risk assessments into their health and safety policies," the medical director stressed, adding that training employees to recognise early signs of heat illness is critical. "Early intervention can prevent a medical emergency and long-term health consequences. By fostering a culture of heat awareness and encouraging frequent hydration and breaks during peak temperatures, organisations can empower their workforce to stay healthy and safe. It is also important for organisations to be able to distinguish the different stages of heat-related illness. Heatstroke, the most severe heat illness, is a medical emergency and can cause long term impact if prompt medical attention is not given. Symptoms include a core body temperature exceeding 40°C, nausea and/or vomiting, confusion and seizures."

Mitsui E&P joins Outward Bound Oman for youth development

In line with its strategy for social responsibility and focus on empowering Omani youth, Mitsui E&P Middle East has signed a memorandum of understanding with Outward Bound Oman to collaborate on enhancing youth skills and opening new opportunities through outdoor experiential learning courses.

Mitsui E&P Middle East prioritises community welfare, particularly youth empowerment. This collaboration aims to sponsor participants in the 'Next Generation' programme, implemented by Outward Bound Oman in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth.

The programme focuses on enhancing youth life skills through immersive outdoor learning experiences that includes a variety of enriching activities and discussions, in line with Oman Vision 2040, fundamental job skills, professional ethics, and resilience in different environments. The programme targets university students, and job seekers from various provinces of the sultanate.

Richard Lewis, Executive Director of Outward Bound Oman, stated, "The corporate community plays a crucial role in the success of Outward Bound in Oman by funding Omani youth through their social investment programmes to participate in Outward Bound training courses.

"These courses aim to develop key life skills such as resilience. The support from Mitsui E&P Middle East will provide young people with an extraordinary opportunity to enhance their self-esteem and ability to cope with uncertainty and challenges."

Geely Oman unveils award-winning cars

Geely Oman is making waves in the automotive industry with the recent launch of the all-new Tugella and the new Preface.

These impressive vehicles share a key advantage of CMA, the innovative Compact Modular Architecture (CMA), co-developed by Geely and Volvo.

The CMA is a game-changer for car design and manufacturing. It is a world-leading electrical and electronic architecture. Its highly flexible and scalable 'Smart Cube' allows for the creation of a wide range of vehicles, from C-segment sedans like the Preface to D-segment SUVs like the Tugella.

This translates to faster model development and a higher degree of customisation to meet

the needs of different markets.

Geely's innovative CMA is like a building block system for cars. The platform prioritises safety with its high standards and provides a strong foundation (chassis, powertrain, electronics) that can be adapted to create a variety of vehicle types. It is a dream come true for a car designer. The platform is modular implying that the key parts can be adjusted (length, width, height) to create different car sizes.

This flexibility allows manufacturers to build cars that are remarkably close to the original concept design. The CMA is incredibly versatile as it can be used for a variety of car segments like class C and D, and various body styles including



sedans, SUVs and more. It even works with both traditional gas-powered engines and eco-friendly options.

CMA allows Geely to develop cars that are similar to the con-

cept designs, making designers' visions a reality. It also enables the creation of fuel-efficient gas-powered vehicles, eco-friendly hybrids, and electric cars for the future.

The CMA forms the foundation for a superior driving experience. Coupled with an aerodynamic exterior, designed to cut through the air with minimal resistance, Geely vehicles

use their sleek shape to boost performance and efficiency on every drive.

Safety is paramount in Geely vehicles, and the CMA provides a robust foundation through high standards of safety. Geely cars come equipped with a leading active safety system, ensuring unparalleled peace of mind on the road. CMA caters to the diverse needs of car buyers worldwide. Vehicles built on this platform are already popular in China, Europe, and the United States, paving the way for a future of electrified, intelligent, and connected cars.

The new Preface benefits from Geely's advanced CMA, which enhances both its design and interior space.

Bousher Endowment Foundation, Nidaa Charity Team launch project

In its pursuit to achieve sustainability in charitable work and enhance community giving, Bousher Endowment Foundation, in partnership with Nidaa Charity Team, announced the launch of the 'Nidaa Building' project.

This endowment project, the first of its kind, aims to generate an annual income of RO144,000 to support deserving families and community members.

This project is part of a real estate endowment portfolio valued at a total of RO9mn. The portfolio invests in various real estate projects, including residential and commercial buildings in several areas of Bousher and beyond, as well as developing agricultural lands owned by the foundation with unique and sustainable projects. The portfolio aims to achieve an annual income of RO900,000, which will be directed to specialized charitable organizations serving the endowment's targeted groups and individuals.

Bousher Endowment Foundation strives to renew the developmental role of endowments in society by investing and maximizing their returns, raising awareness about their importance, and ensuring their sustainability as a source of public good.



The foundation sets a noble goal of directing the returns to specialized charitable entities to achieve the widest possible positive impact on our community. Charitable organizations, in turn, will distribute these funds to the rightful beneficiaries from various segments of society.

This collaboration crowns the role of Nidaa Charity Team, which witnessed tangible

achievements in 2023. The total revenues amounted to RO933,968.28, while expenses reached RO581,909.56. The achievements included supporting families at a cost of RO21,516, providing comprehensive care programs for orphans at a cost of RO185,661, distributing electrical appliances at a cost of RO9,445.13, and offering charitable housing at a cost of RO15,586.

Additionally, Nidaa Charity Team's initiatives helped 650 families overcome their crises at a cost of RO120,486.56, distributed charity meat at a cost of RO13,120, provided Eid clothing at a cost of RO9,267, and served iftar meals during Ramadan.

Muscat Municipality, Bank Muscat sign MoU to support entrepreneurs

The Municipality of Muscat and Bank Muscat have signed a memorandum of cooperation to launch a Food Truck initiative in Bousher to support street vendors culinary offerings.

The memorandum was signed by Dr Shauqi bin Abdulrahman al Zadjali, General Director of Health Affairs and acting General Director of Planning and Investment, Muscat Municipality, and Talib bin Saif al Makhmari, Head of Community & Media Relations, Bank Muscat. It is worth noting that the implementation of the social initiative was also supported by the SMEs Development Authority.

The Food Trucks Initiative reaffirms the Municipality and Bank Muscat's commitment to supporting entrepreneurs and owners of emerging businesses such as street vendors by providing them with the appropriate tools and entrepreneurial skills with the aim to develop their businesses.

It also falls under Bank Muscat's full chain of social initiatives, underscoring its commitment to supporting street vendors by offering them a number of food trucks featuring safety and modern design standards to cater to their diverse needs.



These food trucks will serve as a platform for aspiring business owners, offering them a unique opportunity to showcase their culinary talents and provide a diverse range of food options to the local residents

The Food Trucks serve as a vibrant platform for street vendors to showcase their culinary offerings, thus, contributing to a positive experience for local residents and tourists visiting the designated area.

It is noteworthy that Muscat Municipality has supplied the facilities necessary to satisfy the requirements of such businesses including vehicle-park areas. The

Municipality will also actively monitor and supervise the smooth operations of these trucks in accordance with the professional and health terms and conditions.

In addition, the initiative underscores Bank Muscat's dedication to supporting various business sectors through the continuous launch of sustainable programmes. It also constitutes

a valuable contribution that will bring about long-term social and economic values.

These food trucks will serve as a platform for aspiring business owners, offering them a unique opportunity to showcase their culinary talents and provide a diverse range of food options to the local residents.

By supporting these small businesses, the initiative will not only create new job opportunities but also foster a spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation within the community.

Overall, the initiative exemplifies a collaborative effort between the public and private sectors to empower individuals and promote local businesses.

Anger brewing against sexual abuse by US forces in Japan

Tokyo, Japan - The Japanese are brimming with anger against incidents of sexual abuse by US forces deployed in the country. It comes as prosecutors indicted US Marine Jamel Clayton for attempted rape and injuring a woman. "A vile crime has come to light once again, causing strong concern to the people of Okinawa. I cannot help but be outraged," Okinawa Governor Denny Tamaki told reporters on Friday.

He said he 'feels anger beyond description' about the crime. Clayton was arrested in May and indicted by the Naha district public prosecutor's office June 17. The US soldier was charged with allegedly 'choking the victim, unbuttoning her pants, and attempting to have sexual intercourse with her' in Yomitan village on May 26, Tokyo-based Kyodo News reported. The attack caused injuries to the victim who was treated for around two weeks.



And on Tuesday, prosecutors indicted a US soldier for the alleged sexual assault and kidnapping of a minor last December. Brennon Washington, 25, had invited the girl to speak to him on December 24 in his car at a park in Yomitan in Okinawa province. Later, he drove her to his home before touching the lower half of the girl's body. Okinawa province's deputy governor lodged protests on Thursday with US forces for the incidents in the region, saying it

was 'causing concern for people who are forced to live next to US bases'. The vice governor said there was a delay in notifying provincial authorities about the incident. Talking to reporters, Denny emphasised the need to 'review a communication system for notifying' provincial authorities about such incidents involving US soldiers. Meanwhile, at least one person was killed on Friday while another was injured during an accident amid protests

against the relocation of US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma based in Okinawa. Despite opposition from the native population, Japan is working to relocate a US military base within Okinawa province. Currently, the US base is located in a crowded residential district in Ginowan and Tokyo wants it to be transferred to the less populated Henoko coastal area of Nago under an agreement signed in 1996. Anadolu Agency

Carry forward 'five principles of peaceful coexistence': Xi Jinping

Xi made the remarks while addressing an international conference in Beijing

Beijing, China - Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday called on the international community to carry forward the 'five principles of peaceful coexistence' under the new circumstances and jointly build a community with a shared future for humanity. Xi made the remarks when addressing the conference marking the 70th Anniversary of the 'five principles of peaceful coexistence' in Beijing. Chinese Premier Li Qiang presided over the conference. Senior Chinese officials including Cai Qi attended the conference. Around 600 people, including former foreign political figures, representatives of international and regional organisations, envoys from more than 100 countries, experts and scholars, and media and business representatives, attended the conference. A luncheon and four sub-forums were held on the same day. Noting that the 'five principles of peaceful coexistence' have transcended time and space and overcome estrangement over the past 70 years, Xi said they have become open, inclusive, and universally applicable basic norms for international relations and fundamental principles of international law.



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the conference marking the 70th Anniversary of the 'Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence' in Beijing on Friday (Xinhua)

He said the 'five principles of peaceful coexistence' have set a historic benchmark for international relations and international rule of law, served as the prime guidance for the establishment and development of relations between countries with different social systems, been a powerful rallying force behind the efforts of developing countries to pursue cooperation and self-strength through unity, and contributed historic wisdom to the reform and improvement of the international order. These principles were initiated with the purpose of protecting the interests and pursuits of small and weak

Representatives of organisations, envoys from more than 100 countries, experts, scholars, and media and business people, attended the conference

countries from power politics, Xi said, adding that they categorically oppose imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism, and have laid an important intellectual foundation for a more just and equitable international order. Having traversed an extraordinary journey of 70 years, the 'five principles of peaceful coexistence' are a common asset of the international community to be valued, inherited and further promoted, he added. Former Myanmar President U Thein Sein said these principles have received widespread recognition from various countries and international organisations, and have been incorporated into many joint statements between countries. Gao Fei, vice president of China Foreign Affairs University,

said these principles bear enduring importance in addressing international relations, maintaining global peace and stability, and promoting the development and progress of humanity. Noting that the world today faced the historic question of 'what kind of world to build and how to build it', Xi said China has answered the call of the times by proposing a community with a shared future for humanity, and the vision is the most effective move to sustain, promote and upgrade the 'five principles of peaceful coexistence' in the new circumstances. Xinhua



Racism cases in France jumped 32% during 2023

Paris, France - Cases of racism in France jumped 32 per cent in 2023, according to a human rights commission report. Tolerance for all minority groups in France fell in 2023, particularly for the Jewish community, and Muslims are the least-tolerated group, the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (CNCDH) said in a report Thursday. Racist cases increased 32 per cent in 2023 according to the Interior Ministry, the report added, and the most increase was observed in antisemitic racist cases, which were at 284 per cent. The figures can have multiple factors, including Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip since October 7, and polarising debates on asylum and migration, the CNCDH added, noting that one million people were subjected to at least one racist attack in 2023, according to the statistical office's figures. More than half of the French, 51 per cent, consider 'not feeling at home anymore in France', a rise of eight points compared to the spring of 2022, said the report. It said that 56 per cent of

the French, seven points higher than in the spring of 2022, confirm that there are 'too many immigrants in France'. The figures reflect the recent context on the political and social atmosphere, with the rise of the far-right National Rally (RN) party, which received more than 30 per cent of the vote in the European Parliament elections in June. RN's victory pushed French President Emmanuel Macron to acknowledge his centrist bloc's defeat, dissolve parliament, and announce snap elections. RN leader Jordan Bardella said the party will focus on migration, stressing that the problem is placing an 'unbearable weight' on 'public finances and the social security system'. He vowed to curb migration into France, end birthright citizenship, implement legal changes to make it easier to deport foreigners convicted of crimes and take measures to address economic issues. The elections will be held in two rounds - the first June 30 and the second July 7. Anadolu Agency

Boeing Starliner with Sunita Williams onboard could wait months in space

Washington, D.C., US - Projected to last only days, the first crewed test flight of Boeing's Starliner spacecraft with two astronauts onboard is in limbo with no exact return to Earth announced. NASA's Commercial Crew Programme manager, Steve Stich has said that the US space agency is considering extending the duration of Starliner's mission from 45 days to 90 days, CNN reported. Officials have repeatedly hinted that the Starliner, which faced issues with helium leaks and thruster outages heading to the International Space Station in early June, will be safe to bring astronauts including Indian-origin Sunita 'Suni' Williams and Butch Wilmore home. On Friday, Stich said that NASA is considering extending the maximum length of Starliner's mission from 45 days to 90 days and there is no firm return date on the horizon, according to CNN report. Addressing a briefing on Fri-

day, the NASA official said: "We're just looking at the timeline to execute (the test in New Mexico) and then review the data." He further said: "And that's what's really the long pole, I would say, determining a landing date." Stich added: "We're not in a rush to come home." Part of that desired extension is due to the ground tests that Boeing and NASA plan to conduct in New Mexico, seeking to better understand why some of the Starliner's thrusters unexpectedly failed during the first leg of its journey. Stich and Mark Nappi, vice president and programme manager of the Commercial Crew Programme for Boeing, also said that engineers are still not certain about the reason behind the Starliner's problems. Nappi said that part of the aim is conducting the ground tests while the vehicle is still in space is to try to whittle down possible reasons why the thrusters malfunctioned.



Astronauts Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams

Mark Nappi said: "So, if (the test in New Mexico) comes back and gives us all the answers, then we can just undock and come home." He added: "If it comes back and says, 'here's 80 per cent of

the answer. And if you just run one more docked hot fire (test on the Starliner in orbit), then you can get 100 per cent of the answers' - then we want (Starliner) to be there so that we can get that information."

Meanwhile, Williams and Wilmore have integrated with the rest of the crew currently aboard the International Space Station and are conducting routine tasks. Several more helium leaks

were identified while the craft was heading to the International Space Station, along with the thruster issues. The Starliner's service module, a cylindrical attachment at the bottom of the spacecraft that provides much of the vehicle's power during flight, faced several issues, CNN

issues. It is not clear yet whether NASA will extend the maximum mission length to 90 days. Stich said officials must clear the battery life of the Starliner for that purpose. Although he noted that the batteries are being recharged at the space station,

NASA is considering extending the maximum length of Starliner's mission from 45 days to 90 days and there is no firm return date on the horizon, CNN reported

reported. As per the design, the service module will not survive the return to Earth. The module is jettisoned and destroyed as the Starliner spacecraft re-enters the atmosphere and that's the reason why Boeing and NASA teams then opted to leave the Starliner spacecraft safely docked with the space station while they worked to learn as much as possible about those

they should operate the same way after 90 days as they will for the first 45 days. The spaceflight industry frequently experiences cost overruns, delays and unmet deadlines. However, Boeing has faced challenges that have stood out, particularly when the Starliner programme is directly compared with SpaceX's Crew Dragon, CNN reported. ANI

Arab League ceases labelling Lebanese Hezbollah as a ‘terrorist organisation’

Cairo, Egypt - The Arab League's assistant secretary-general announced on Saturday that the league has ceased referring to Lebanese Hezbollah as a 'terrorist organisation'.

In a televised statement on the Egyptian Al-Qahera News Channel the day after he concluded his visit to Beirut, Hossam Zaki said: "In previous Arab League decisions, Hezbollah was designated as a terrorist organisation, and this designation was reflected in the resolutions, leading to the severing of communication based on these decisions."

"The member states of the League agreed that the label of Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation should no longer be employed," Zaki said.

The official attributed this decision to the fact that 'the designation of Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation no longer applies', emphasising that 'the Arab League does not maintain terrorist lists and does not actively seek to designate entities in such a manner'.

On March 11, 2016, the Arab League classified Hezbollah as a 'terrorist organisation', with reservations from Lebanon and Iraq, and called for it to 'cease promoting extremism and sectarianism, refrain from meddling in the internal affairs of countries,



On March 11, 2016, the Arab League had classified Hezbollah as a 'terrorist organisation', with reservations from Lebanon and Iraq

and withhold any support for terrorism and terrorists in the region'. The classification occurred shortly after the Gulf Cooperation Council countries designated the Lebanese Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation on March

2, 2016. On Friday, the Lebanese daily *Al-Akhbar* reported that Zaki visited Beirut and held a meeting with Muhammad Raad, the head of the Loyalty to the Resistance bloc affiliated with Hezbollah.

This marks the first contact between the Arab League and Hezbollah in over a decade.

According to a statement by the Arab League on Friday, Zaki, during his visit that began on Tuesday, held meetings with

Lebanese officials, as well as various political and parliamentary leaders representing Lebanon's diverse political spectrum.

The discussions focused on de-escalating tensions in southern Lebanon since the onset of

the Israeli war on Gaza, as well as addressing Lebanon's prolonged presidential vacancy, which has persisted for over 19 months.

Zaki's visit and statement coincided with heightened concerns over a potential escalation

between Hezbollah and Israel. Tensions have soared along Lebanon's border with Israel amid cross-border attacks between Hezbollah and Israeli forces as Tel Aviv pressed ahead with its deadly offensive on the Gaza Strip, which has killed more than 37,800 people since last October 7. Hezbollah has linked the cessation of its attacks on Israel to the end of Tel Aviv's onslaught on Gaza.

Meanwhile, Hamas condemned on Friday an Israeli move to legalise new settlement outposts and units in the occupied West Bank.

The Palestinian resistance group denounced the announcement as 'a practical declaration by the fascist occupation government to proceed with extremist (Finance Minister Bezalel) Smotrich's plans to control the West Bank'. Hamas said the new settlement plans 'require a unified Palestinian stance to reject and confront them and resist the policies of the extremist Zionist government'.

The group urged the UN and the international community to 'take practical steps beyond condemnation to work on stopping these measures, which represent a dangerous attempt to liquidate the (Palestinian) cause.

Anadolu Agency

9 Palestinians killed in Gaza Strip

Gaza City, Palestine - At least nine Palestinians were killed and several others injured on Saturday in Israeli attacks on various areas of the Gaza Strip.

Medical teams told Anadolu that they recovered the bodies of five Palestinians after the Israeli army withdrew from the Al-Shakoush area, northwest of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, which it had entered on Friday.

Israeli military vehicles withdrew from the Al-Shakoush area, northwest of Rafah, approximately 24 hours after entering it, according to an Anadolu correspondent. Medical sources also said that four Palestinians were killed and 10 others injured in an Israeli bombing that targeted the home of the Al-Ghazi family in the Al-Sabrah neighbourhood, south of Gaza City.

Meanwhile, eyewitnesses reported that Israeli military tanks and bulldozers destroyed around 1,235 acres of agricultural greenhouses in the area northwest of Rafah, which was the last remaining land in the strip planted with vegetables.

On Friday, the Israeli army ad-



vanced into the Al-Shakoush area within Al-Mawasi, west of Rafah, prompting thousands of Palestinians to flee from their tents to the city of Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

The displacement occurred after several tents were bombed and burned in the camp located in the far northwest of Rafah, resulting in deaths and injuries among the displaced, eyewitnesses reported to Anadolu.

They also informed Anadolu that an Israeli drone strike in a

central Gaza City park resulted in several Palestinian casualties.

Meanwhile, for the fourth consecutive day, Israeli forces continued their military operation in the Shujaia neighbourhood, east of Gaza City, under heavy artillery fire, targeting homes, roads, and infrastructure. The Palestinian Civil Defence Service reported numerous appeals from families trapped in Shujaia, highlighting that many are injured and still under constant Israeli shelling.

The Civil Defence has urged

the International Committee of the Red Cross to respond swiftly to these distress calls and assist the wounded and those still alive.

On Thursday, the Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation reported that the Israeli army launched a ground offensive in the Shujaia neighbourhood, east of Gaza City, on Wednesday.

At least 37,834 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's ongoing offensive on the Gaza Strip since last October.

Anadolu Agency

Iran's presidential election goes to run-off: Initial results

Tehran, Iran - Iran's snap presidential election is heading to a run-off after no candidate managed to secure 50 per cent of the vote, according to initial results released on Saturday.

According to the final count announced by the election headquarters on Saturday, reformist candidate and former Health Minister Masoud Pezeshkian garnered the highest number of votes - 10.4mn.

His closest competitor, conservative candidate Saeed Jalili, who has served as lead nuclear negotiator and head of a top security body, came second with 9.4mn votes.

Parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf trailed behind with 3.3mn votes, while former Interior Minister Mostafa Pourmohammadi received just over 206,000 votes.

About 40 per cent of eligible voters cast their ballots in the first round, falling short of expectations for higher turnout in this year's election.



About 40 per cent of eligible voters cast their ballots in the first round

The 2021 poll, which late Ebrahim Raisi won by a landslide, had witnessed record-low voter turnout of 49 per cent. Raisi died in a helicopter crash in May.

The run-off election will be held on July 5, with the two remaining candidates having one week to engage in campaigning and television debates before election day.

Voting in the snap presidential election was held on Friday and was extended three times by the

election headquarters before voting lines closed at midnight.

An estimated 61mn people were eligible to vote in this election, according to state media, with the majority being young people. In the 2021 presidential election, 59.3mn people were eligible to vote.

A total of 58,640 polling stations were set up across the country, including more than 6,000 in the capital Tehran.

Anadolu Agency

TASTE OF ASIA



A cook grills lobster tails during the three-day 2024 Taste of Asia event in Markham, Canada, on Friday (Xinhua)

Egypt's relations with EU see progress: Sisi

Cairo, Egypt - Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi affirmed on Saturday that the 'relations between Egypt and the European Union are experiencing positive progress across multiple domains'.

This came during Sisi's address at the opening session of the investment conference between Egypt and the EU, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, with the participation of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

The Egyptian president stated that 'relations between Egypt and the European Union are experiencing positive progress in various areas of cooperation'.

"This progress culminated in the signing of a political declaration in March, elevating relations



between the two sides to the status of a strategic and comprehensive partnership," he added.

"We are convening for the second time in a brief span to witness the 2024 Egypt-European Union Investment Conference," Sisi added. Sisi viewed the conference as 'initiating the first

According to Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the strategic partnership between Egypt and EU encompasses 'six pillars, with investment being the most significant'

practical measures in advancing relations and underscores Egypt and the European Union's commitment to progress from promises to concrete actions'.

According to the Egyptian president, the strategic partnership between Egypt and the EU encompasses 'six pillars, with in-

vestment being the most significant'. He highlighted expectations of mobilising approximately 5bn (US\$5.3bn) in European investments and providing 1.8bn in investment guarantees for the private sector.

Sisi also emphasised that these efforts would enhance the EU's role as Egypt's foremost trade and investment partner.

The president emphasised Egypt's commitment as a reliable partner in promoting security and stability in the regional context.

In March last year, the EU unveiled a financing package totalling 7.4bn for Egypt from 2024 to 2027.

Over the past four years, Egypt has received around US\$12.8bn in total funding from Europe.

Anadolu Agency

INDIA

Delhi airport canopy collapse: Operations at T-1 suspended

New Delhi - A day after the canopy collapse incident at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, in which one person was killed and eight others were injured on Friday morning, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) announced on Saturday that operations at Terminal 1 will remain suspended till further notice.

Terminal 1 handles domestic flights, including those by IndiGo and SpiceJet. All operations have been temporarily shifted to Terminal 2 and Terminal 3. "Flight operations at Delhi airport are normal and operating from Terminal-2 & 3 only. All flights from Terminal-1 have been shifted to Terminal-3 and Terminal-2," Delhi airport said in a post on X.

IndiGo issued an advisory on Friday night. "6ETravelAdvisory: #DelhiAirport Terminal 1 update: Flights originally scheduled to operate to/from Terminal 1, Delhi after 0000hrs (midnight) have been shifted to Terminal 2 and Terminal 3," the airline said.

"The communication regarding terminal information is being communicated either via WhatsApp, SMS or Email. Please check flight status before heading to the airport," it added.

SpiceJet issued an advisory on Friday evening. "All SpiceJet flights to and from Delhi dated 29th June'24 will depart/arrive from Terminal 3. Necessary in-



formation has been communicated to all the passengers via SMS/Email. The passengers are requested to ensure sufficient travel time and keep a check on their flight status," the airline said in a post on X on Friday. A passenger at the airport urged the government to resolve the situation quickly. "We are facing time issues. We want the government to resolve these issues as soon as possible," he said.

Meanwhile, DIAL announced that a technical committee has been formed to investigate the cause of the canopy collapse at Terminal 1.

In a statement issued on Friday, the DIAL said the technical committee will give the report as soon as possible. "Due to heavy rains and winds through the night in Delhi, a canopy at the old departure forecourt of Terminal 1 (T1) partially collapsed around 5am this morning. While the cause for the collapse is being assessed, the primary cause seems to be the continued heavy rainfall over the past few hours," the DIAL said.

The statement added: "Rescue operations were launched immediately by the Delhi Airport Emergency Response Team including Fire Fighting, Medical Team and Operations, who provided all necessary support and assistance. Evacuation of passengers and all other individuals from T1 was the first priority and complete evacuation has been undertaken."

DIAL further said that it is working with all relevant agencies, including the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Bureau of Civil Aviation (BCAS) to assess the situation and restore operations.



Ladakh: Five army personnel dead in accident

Ladakh - Five Indian Army soldiers including one junior commissioned officer and four jawans lost their lives when an army tank met with an accident in the Daulat Beg Oldie area in Ladakh on Friday evening.

All five bodies have been recovered, defence officials said on Saturday.

The T-72 tank which the army personnel were operating met with an accident during a river crossing exercise. The mishap took place yesterday due to a sudden increase in water levels, said defence officials.

"There were five soldiers in the tank at the time of the incident, including one junior commissioned officer and four jawans. One person has been located while the search for others is still going on," defence officials said in an initial confirmation.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed sadness over the deaths of the Army soldiers. "Deeply saddened at the loss of lives of five of our brave Indian Army soldiers in an unfortunate accident while getting across a river in Ladakh in a tank. We will never forget the exemplary service of our gallant soldiers to the nation," Rajnath Singh said in a post on X.

"My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. The nation stands firm with them during this hour of grief," he added.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said he

was deeply distressed by the news of the accident and the loss of lives.

"Deeply distressed at the loss of lives of 5 Indian Army bravehearts, including a JCO, while getting a T-72 tank across a river in Ladakh. Our heartfelt condolences to the families of the Army personnel who fell victim to this painful tragedy. In this hour of grief, the nation stands together in saluting the exemplary service of our valiant soldiers," he posted on X.

Arunachal CM Pema Khandu also expressed his condolences on the incident

"Deeply disturbed to learn that a T-72 tank with five soldiers has been swept away by flash floods near the Line of Actual Control in the Nyoma-Chusul area of Ladakh. Praying for the safety and well-being of our brave soldiers," he posted on X.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda also condoled the loss of lives of the army personnel.

The T-72 tank which the army personnel were operating met with an accident during a river crossing exercise

Court sends Arvind Kejriwal to judicial custody till July 12

New Delhi - The Rouse Avenue Court of Delhi on Saturday sent Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to judicial custody till July 12 in connection with the excise policy case.

The Vacation Judge Sunena Sharma sent Arvind Kejriwal to judicial custody till July 12, 2024.

Advocate D P Singh appeared for CBI while seeking direction to send Arvind Kejriwal into judicial custody and alleged that during the police custody remand, the accused Arvind Kejriwal did not cooperate with the investigation and deliberately gave evasive replies contrary to the evidence on record.

On being confronted with the



evidence, he did not give a proper and truthful explanation regarding the enhancement of the profit margin for wholesalers from 5 per cent to 12 per cent

under the new Excise Policy of Delhi 2021-22, without any study or justification, said CBI.

He also could not explain as to why during the peak of 2nd

wave of COVID, the Cabinet approval for a revised Excise Policy was obtained through circulation in hurried manner within one day, when the accused persons of the South Group were camping in Delhi and holding meetings with his close associate Vijay Nair.

He evaded the questions regarding the meetings of his associate Vijay Nair with various stakeholders of the liquor business in Delhi and demanded illegal gratification from them for favourable provisions in the upcoming Excise Policy, the CBI added.

He also evaded questions regarding the transfer and utilisation of ill-gotten money to the tune of Rs 44.54 crores in the Goa Assembly Elections by his party during 2021-22, said CBI.

In the light of aforesaid facts and circumstances, the further custodial interrogation of the accused Arvind Kejriwal is not required at this stage, said CBI.

CBI alleged that he was deliberately and intentionally evading the just and relevant questions related to the case. He, being a prominent politician and the chief minister of Delhi, is a very influential person, as such, there are credible reasons to believe that, he may influence the witnesses, CBI added.

ANI

Pakistan asks US for arms: Report

Islamabad, Pakistan - Pakistan asked the US to supply Islamabad with arms, a media report said on Saturday.

The request was made during an event in Washington when the South Asian nation's top diplomat in the US, Masood Khan was addressing US policymakers, scholars, intelligentsia and corporate leaders, according to the Dawn newspaper. "Pakistan has launched Azm-e-Istehkam ... to oppose and dismantle terrorist networks. For that, we need sophisticated small arms and communication equipment," said Khan.

Islamabad announced last week the launch of a 'reinvigorated' national counter-terrorism campaign to 'eradicate extremism and terrorism from the country', known as Azm-e-Istehkam or determination for durability.

Khan, who is the former

president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, said: "This is crucial for regional security and opposing the rising tide of terrorism that also threatens the interests of the US and its allies." The veteran diplomat noted that shared values, intertwined security and economic interests, and the aspirations of both peoples strengthen US-Pakistan ties.

"In this era of renewed strategic competition, the US and Pakistan should build on existing partnerships and explore new horizons to establish the parameters of mutual interests," he said.

Khan suggested that the US should consider Pakistan a key partner in its diplomatic efforts in Kabul, collaborating on counter-terrorism initiatives and promoting the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan.

Anadolu Agency

Trump says Biden's problem is not age, but competence

Washington, D.C., US - Former US President Donald Trump on Friday said he had a 'big victory' during a presidential debate with President Joe Biden.

"As you saw on television last night we had a big victory against a man who is trying to destroy our country," Trump said at a rally in Chesapeake, Virginia.

His remarks came after Biden acknowledged his age and bad performance in the debate, but vowed to win the November election.

"It's not his age, it's his competence," Trump said, adding: "He's not respected anywhere in the world."

Biden's rambling answers and appearing to lose his train of thought in the debate heightened voter concerns that he might not be fit to serve another four-year term.

He told reporters following the debate that it is 'hard to debate a liar', referring to Trump, and said the ex-leader lied 26 times.

The White House confirmed that Biden had a cold and sore



As you saw on television last night we had a big victory against a man who is trying to destroy our country. It's not his age, it's his competence

DONALD TRUMP

throat during the debate. "He had the cold and had a sore throat. Again, he tested negative for COVID, and then we moved on," spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters.

Biden after his poor performance during Thursday night's presidential debate against Trump.

"Bad debate nights happen. Trust me, I know," Obama said on X.

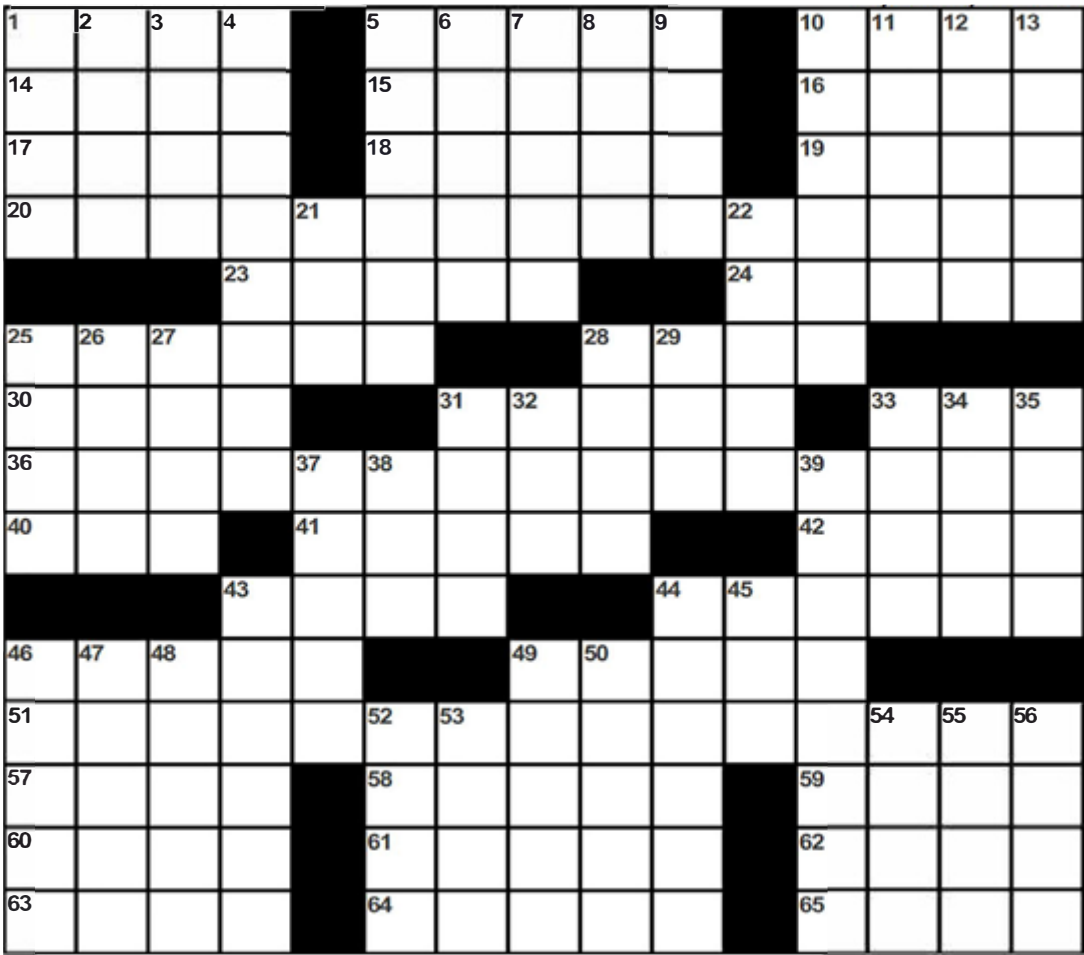
"But this election is still a choice between someone who has fought for ordinary folks his entire life and someone who only cares about himself," Obama said.

"Between someone who tells the truth; who knows right from wrong and will give it to the American people straight - and someone who lies through his teeth for his own benefit. Last night didn't change that, and it's why so much is at stake in November."

"I know I'm not a young man. I don't walk as easy as I used to. I don't speak as smoothly as I used to. I don't debate as well as I used to, but I know what I do know - I know how to tell the truth," Biden, who acknowledged age and bad debate performance told a rally in North Carolina on Friday.

Anadolu Agency

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1) Spanish dwelling
5) _ myrtle
10) Ship's post
14) Unknown quote source, for short
15) Edmonton pro
16) Asian housemaid
17) Thirty-two-card game
18) Lasting impressions
19) "Batman" cartoonist Bob
20) Some quick breakfast orders
23) Capital of Rhone
24) Regular writing
25) Carpenters' grooves
28) Helen of_
30) " ... and make it fast!"
31) Expressed awe
33) Blooming loop
36) It's indexed?
40) Sailor's "yes"
41) Attempts at waist removal?
42) Perfect, as one's skills
43) What wavy lines in comics represent
44) Keeps smiling
46) Hindu sage

- 49) Shish_
51) Bogus monetary unit
57) Stir up sediment
58) Abdominal ailment
59) It can be good, bad or bright
60) Place for a lighthouse
61) Say "I'm thinkin'," e.g.
62) Ardor
63) Exterminator's quarry
64) Lions' prides?
65) Tear with force
- DOWN**
1) Playbill listing
2) Egyptian life symbol
3) Emulate eagles
4) Range rover
5) Earth and beyond
6) Poisonous protein in castor beans
7) Thicke and Rickman
8) South American nation
9) Prefix for "while"
10) Place to buy pies
11) Insect's adult stage
12) Tart flavors
13) The ones here
21) Seeing_ dog
22) Lyrical poem
25) Computer input
26) Like an uncleaned hearth
- 27) It might begin "Bet you can't!"
28) Not that
29) Make go "vroom"
31) Legal hearing
32) Frequently, to Shake-speare
33) "Land of a million elephants"
34) Fish-eating bird
35) "Beware the_ of March"
37) Murphy of Hollywood
38) Condensed lifetime account
39) More plump
43) Common breakfast dish
44) Lowers in esteem
45) Damage, as a surface
46) "77 Sunset_"
47) Question of possession
48) Hard seed coverings
49) Anne or Calvin of fashion
50) Escape detection
52) Per_ expenses
53) Earthenware jar
54) Run at the light
55) Trimmed of fat
56) Attain, as a job

NOTE PAD



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

Have you been losing perspective when it comes to the most important people in your life? Sure, your boss deserves a lot of your respect, but are you giving them too much? Your family deserves more of your energy right now, so put them first on your priority list. They're the ones who truly love you and have your best interests at heart. Try to take some time off, even if it's just an hour or two. Remind yourself about what is really important and make a necessary correction in your perspective.



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Your enthusiasm about one aspect of your life is going to start bubbling over to another part of your life today. Things could get a little messy, but you will love every minute of the fun chaos, and so will the people who are closest to you. You'll have a smile plastered to your face all day long, and a great attitude about even the most boring sounding things. Balancing your checkbook? Sounds like a blast! Cleaning out the garage? Couldn't think of a more fun thing to do!



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Try to fill your day with as much music and art as you possibly can. Both of these will soothe you and take you out of a crabby, blue mood in minutes. Plus, music and art will help you get back in touch with the more expressive parts of yourself. Listening to your favorite songs, visiting a museum or sculpture garden, or even just going online to learn more about your favorite artists will help you stay content and happy with where you are in life.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Grand Central Terminal, Park Avenue, New York is the world's

- A. largest railway station
B. highest railway station
C. longest railway station
D. None of the above

2. Entomology is the science that studies

- A. Behavior of human beings
B. Insects
C. The origin and history of technical and scientific terms
D. The formation of rocks

3. Eritrea, which became the 182nd member of the UN in 1993, is in the continent of

- A. Asia
B. Africa
C. Europe
D. Australia

Answers: 1. A 2. B 3. B



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

If you're put in a situation that involves a clash of delicate egos today, focus on fairness and not on politics. You have the strength of your ideals to rely on, so rely on them. Equality is too important to be sacrificed to get on someone's good side. If you smell a bad idea, say so. Playing favorites is not advised. Set a good example by being honest and objective. Impressionable people are watching.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Someone sweet from your past might pop back into your life again soon, either in person or online. Greet them with open arms or an enthusiastic reply. They were very important to you once, and they could be again. The two of you have a lot to catch up on, and their news might shock you in the most delightful way. You might have thought you had no more room in your life for more friends, but this person isn't new, so integrate them back into the rotation.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

You will wake up with a lot of energy coursing through your body this morning, which will go a long way toward fueling some productivity. This is a great day to tackle that project you've been putting off for so long, whether it's cleaning the garage or having that important talk with a family member or supervisor. The things that you were dreading will suddenly be enjoyable for you, so make the most of it. Dig in. You'll feel a great sense of accomplishment by the end of the day.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

Communication with your partner could become somewhat difficult right now, and it is not going to be immediately clear why. This is nothing you should worry too much about, though. As long as you are up front about at least trying to talk things out, then they will try to listen. That's about the best you can hope for. The good news is that sometimes, when you work so hard to talk things through with someone else, new ideas emerge.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Just like a bad apple can ruin the whole bunch, a bad person can ruin a whole team. So watch out for people who aren't on board with the group goals today. Staying focused on the greater good is not easy for some (selfish) people to do, so you will have to help them along. If you don't, their negative energy could really bring everyone down. Do not let them force everybody's momentum downhill. You're all better than that!



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

If you don't feel extremely self-confident right now, ask yourself what you are doing to test yourself. By facing a difficult challenge, you can prove to yourself how special you are. Even if you don't succeed, the act of facing a fear or trying to climb an especially tall mountain alone will go a long way toward making you see that you are capable of doing just about anything. In fact, you are capable of doing more than most. Dig down deep and wake up some of your slumbering ambitions.



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

If you're not in the mood to hit the town and whoop it up, then you're not going to be much fun doing it, are you? This is the logic you should use when you tell your friends that they should count you out of the latest big social scheme. You're feeling more introspective right now, and the idea of going out and making small talk with strangers is not striking you as the recipe for a good time. You need to do what you want, not what they want you to do.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Your willpower is still going strong, so there is absolutely no reason to worry about succumbing to any temptations today. Be confident that you can continue to resist. All of the charm that this vice or that unhealthy person used to hold for you is fading fast, perhaps not quite as fast as you would like, but it is definitely fading! Just keep abstaining, and soon you will lose your taste for it (or them) altogether. Get ready to begin a very empowered phase of living.



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

Today, the powerful people will be cheering you on and singing your praises. These newfound friends can help you go a very long way. It's up to you to do the work to go the entire distance, though. So don't take your eye off the ball. You are so close to what you want right now that resting on your laurels or taking a break from the action would simply be a mistake. All that planning is finally starting to pay off.

KIDS COLOURING



BOGGLER

V	I	A	B
S	E	R	S
V	O	R	O
Y	K	T	O

Each game will present you with a matrix filled with letters. The objective is to form words by linking adjacent letters - to the left, right, on top, bottom, or diagonal to each other. The Boggles Classic game uses a 4 x 4 matrix. Words are valued at one point for each letter in excess of two letters. A three letter word is worth one point, a four letter word is worth two points, and so on. Valid words must be at least three letters long.

SOLUTION
20-25 words: Excellent,
15-20 words: Very good,
10-15 words: Good,
5-10 words: Average

DO YOU SUDOKU?

LEVEL EASY: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 and only one instance of each number

	9		5			2		
				9		3		4
8	5			1	3			
4		9						6
	7	5		2		9	4	
1						5		7
			1	3			9	5
9		3		8				
		7	9		2		3	

WORD BUILDER



You have three minutes to find all the words contained in this word.

Rules: Words should be at least four letters long, proper nouns and duplicates don't count

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

1	8	3	2	4	6	7	9	5
2	6	4	5	8	7	1	3	9
5	6	7	9	1	8	4	2	3
7	8	5	6	9	3	2	1	4
3	1	2	7	5	6	8	4	9
6	7	9	1	3	2	4	5	8
4	5	8	6	9	1	2	7	3
8	1	2	4	7	5	9	6	3



Anthony Gordon suffered a gash to his chin plus scrapes on his nose, forearm and knuckles after crashing his electric bike

England's Gordon vows bike-themed goal celebration

Blankenhain, Germany - England forward Anthony Gordon has promised to do a bike-themed celebration if he scores a goal against Slovakia in their last-16 match at Euro 2024 on Sunday after he crashed his electric bike during a recovery ride at camp this week.

The 23-year-old Newcastle player escaped serious injury, suffering a gash to his chin plus scrapes on his nose, forearm and knuckles, after flying an estimated three metres over his handlebars into gravel. He was wearing a helmet at the time.

A journalist jokingly presented Gordon with a bike helmet and training wheels during his press conference on Thursday.

"I'll put the stabilisers next to the pitch maybe and you lot (the media) will get credit for the celebration," he said when asked about a bike-themed celebration. "I will do it. You've got my word."

Gordon will need more

playing time for that to happen. He made his Euro debut as an 89th-minute substitute as England looked for a late winner in their 0-0 group-match draw with Slovenia on Tuesday.

Shaw close to playing

Meanwhile Luke Shaw could be close to playing for England at Euro 2024, with teammate Gordon saying the left back who has been sidelined with a hamstring injury for months has featured in every training session with the team this week.

"He's progressing well actually, especially in the last week or so," Gordon told reporters on Friday.

England manager Gareth Southgate took a "calculated risk" in including Shaw in the squad, knowing the Manchester United defender had not played since February and only featured in 15 games across all competitions this past season due to injury.

WHEN SHOT STOPPERS TURN SHOW STOPPERS

Goalkeepers gear up to be heroes as shootouts take centre stage at Euro 2024

Berlin, Germany - Dreaded by some, loved by others, the advent of the knockout rounds at Euro 2024 brings penalty shootouts into sharp focus and offers goalkeepers an opportunity to become heroes, with very little obvious downside.

The net-minders of the 16 remaining teams will have spent much of this week poring over videos and statistics in preparation for a possible high-stakes spot-kick duel, but unless they actually take - and miss - a penalty themselves, there is little chance of them becoming the villain.

"I focus on the match and then I think about who the penalty takers might be in regulation play over the 90 minutes - if we do go to a shootout, then our goalkeeping coach has all of the information that he'll provide to me at the right time," Switzerland keeper Yann Sommer told reporters.

Sommer was speaking ahead of his side's last-16 clash with Italy, who have been involved in seven shootouts at the Euros.

One truism often shared in the goalkeeping community is that a keeper cannot lose a shootout,



France's Mike Maignan saves Poland captain Robert Lewandowski's penalty during their group game. Though it was retaken and Lewandowski converted the second attempt, Maignan is likely to have more chances to showcase his penalty heroics in the knockout rounds

I think it's important to prepare for the game itself, as opposed to the lottery of penalties, but we know that there could be a match which goes to a penalty shootout.

YANN SOMMER

they can only win it, and it is a statement former Sweden goalkeeper Hedvig Lindahl identifies with. "I absolutely agree, no one expects you to save a penalty, and when you do save one, it gives such a huge energy boost to your team," she told Reuters.

Lindahl, who was capped 189 times for Sweden, has experi-

enced both the highs and the lows of shootouts, saving two shots to beat hosts Brazil in the semi-finals at the 2016 Olympics, but losing the final of the Tokyo Games to Canada on penalties.

Though both resulted in her winning Olympic silver medals, only one is remembered fondly.

The 41-year-old said the ad-

vent of video and data had changed the game when it comes to penalty shootouts, and that she tried to learn as much as she could about every penalty-taker, even those that took them during normal time.

"I tried everything when it came to penalties - I was pretty good at saving the, but I found it difficult to read the shooters from the angle of their run up or their hip, or how they placed their standing leg," Lindahl explained.

"What worked best was statistics and watching their previous efforts - it was a bit difficult if the taker changed sides a lot, and some technical players can

change their mind at the last second, depending on what the goalkeeper does," she added.

Switzerland's Sommer takes a different view, as remembering the intricacies of all the penalty-takers he might face would be too much information.

"I think it's important to prepare for the game itself, as opposed to the lottery of penalties, but we know that there could be a match which goes to a penalty shootout. There's no doubt about that," he said.

Lindahl's final advice to goalkeepers is to trust themselves and embrace the chance to be the hero.

Ronaldo's Portugal face underdogs Slovenia in Euro knockout clash

Frankfurt, Germany - Portugal's talented squad led by captain Cristiano Ronaldo will be under scrutiny when they step on to the Frankfurt Arena pitch to face underdogs Slovenia in their Euro 2024 Round-of-16 clash on Monday.

Despite finishing top of Group F with six points, Portugal stumbled to an unexpected defeat against lowly Georgia that raised many questions after they arrived in Germany with high expectations as one of the odds-on favourites to win the title.

Even though the defeat came with Portugal fielding a second-string side, they were still led by

Ronaldo and were never able to get a foothold against a Georgia team who seemed to enter every challenge as if it was their last.

Georgia played locked down with a deep back five, a defensive style that has been causing headaches for Portugal manager Roberto Martinez.

It was reminiscent of the match against the Czech Republic in their Euro opener, when Portugal had to dig deep to fight back and snatch a 2-1 victory with a stoppage-time winner.

It is also similar to the approach Slovenia are expected to take on Monday - a disciplined, deep back five who offer little



Cristiano Ronaldo

space, and explosive counter-attacks from long balls.

In March, Portugal struggled against Slovenia who gave Martinez his first defeat after 12 games in charge since taking over from long-time manager Fernando Santos following a disappointing loss to Morocco in the 2022 World Cup quarter-finals.

Slovenia won 2-0 in Ljubljana in a friendly which saw Portugal have almost 75% of possession but appear clueless on how to beat their rivals' back five.

They ended up getting caught in quick counters, much like they did against Georgia on Wednesday.

Martinez led Belgium's golden generation of Kevin De Bruyne, Eden Hazard, Thibaut Courtois and Vincent Kompany to number one in the world and third place at the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

However, his Belgium were also a major disappointment at the 2022 finals in Qatar when they were knocked out in the group stage after finishing third behind Morocco and Croatia.

Now, Spaniard Martinez has a similar responsibility with Portugal and must help their talented squad to reach their potential and shake off the underachiever tag that seems to dog them already.

Wounded France and Belgium meet in knockout battle

Hamburg, Germany - By this stage of the European Championship, favourites France and contenders Belgium would have wanted to be well into their stride and hitting their straps as they enter the knockout stages.

Instead, the neighbours go stumbling into the last 16 and into a head-on collision in Dusseldorf on Monday after both failed to finish top of their first-round group.

France's much-vaunted attack is suffering from a crisis of confidence and coach Didier Deschamps, usually a steady hand guiding the squad, looks unsure of what his next move will be.

Belgium will have had some motivation sucked out of their cause following an astonishingly hostile reaction from their own supporters after they limped into the next stage of the tournament in Germany.

Despite Wednesday's draw with Ukraine assuring them progress, they were subjected to



France's Kylian Mbappe during a training session

loud barracking from their fans and have since closed ranks.

Captain Kevin De Bruyne did not take kindly to the abuse.

His attitude and demeanour will set the tone for the rest of the Belgian side as they look to leave behind them the limp performances from the group stage.

Romelu Lukaku needs to find his scoring touch after a number

of missed opportunities in the tournament.

His record 85 goals for Belgium does not include any from Euro 2024, and overall he has a poor scoring record at major tournaments.

Few would have envisaged a French forward line failing to score in open play in their opening three matches at the tournament. One of their two goals was a penalty from Kylian Mbappe, the other an own goal from Austria in their opening game.

Deschamps must now decide whether to restore Antoine Griezmann to the line-up and pair him up front with Mbappe.

Griezmann has been a long-time mainstay for Deschamps but was dropped for their last game, a 1-1 draw with Poland, which allowed Austria to emerge unexpected winners of Group D, which also included the Netherlands.

Belgium is France's oldest and most frequent opponent.

Walker's water spray to Nagelsmann's energy drink: Footballers embrace superstitious rituals

Frankfurt, Germany - Right boot, left boot; left laces, right laces; right foot first on the pitch. For Slovakia's Lukas Haraslin - like countless other sportspeople - the order of this pre-match routine will be sacrosanct ahead of his side's last-16 Euro 2024 clash with England on Sunday.

The winger will also have the same breakfast and lunch, and he'll dress for the game in under two minutes - two more items on his list of superstitions that, if carefully observed, he hopes will bring him luck in the game.

On the other side, England midfielder Kobbie Mainoo will have his usual pesto pasta meal, the same as before any match.

Once on the pitch, Kyle Walker will fill his mouth with water and spray it out like a fire-breather at the circus, a pre-game ritual he observes in honour of former wrestler Triple H. It may seem nonsensical but several studies over the years by sociologists have come to the same conclu-



sion: superstitions provide little physical help to players but mentally they can instil confidence and belief, and that is their charm.

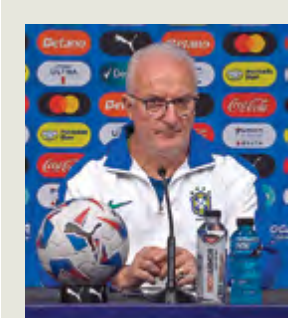
Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann has a pre-game superstition around energy drinks. He always drinks the same type until they lose a game and then he

switches. And they must always be brought to him by assistant coach Benni Glueck.

Germany striker Niclas Füllkrug has less of a superstition than a ritual: He holds both his ears and then twists them when coming onto the pitch. It dates back to when his father coached

him at his childhood club.

"Before training we all stood in a circle. He said: 'This is our switch. If we flip it, then it's only about football'. Then we concentrated on training. You can't forget where you come from and where it all started," Füllkrug told Borussia Dortmund TV.



Dorival Jr hails ‘almost perfect’ Vinicius

Nevada, US - Brazil coach Dorival Jr extolled Vinicius Jr’s skill on the field after the Real Madrid forward propelled Brazil to a 4-1 Copa America victory over Paraguay on Friday.

Vinicius terrorised Paraguay’s defence with his pace and trickery as he scored two goals in an impressive display, a far cry from his performance in Brazil’s 0-0 draw with Costa Rica in their opening group stage match, in which he was largely ineffectual.

“Today he played a very important role,” Dorival told reporters. “He played an almost perfect match, he created very good situations and opportunities. He was dynamic, very effective and straightforward and direct. He played well with other players and teamed up nicely, he has great capacity.”

Brazil next face group leaders Colombia in California on Tuesday, where a draw would be enough to secure qualification for the quarterfinals.

BRAZIL SHOW TRUE COLOURS

Vinicius stars as Seleção thrash Paraguay in Copa America

Nevada, US - Brazil’s Vinicius Jr scored twice in his side’s 4-1 Copa America victory over Paraguay in a Group D clash in Nevada on Friday, bouncing back from a lacklustre display in his first game of the tournament.

Colombia, who have qualified for the quarter-finals, top Group D with six points after two matches, with Brazil in second on four points.

Costa Rica are third with one point and Paraguay, who are bottom with zero after two defeats, have been eliminated from the competition in the group stage for only the second time since 2001.

This victory marked Brazil’s first win in six competitive matches and their maiden competitive win under the management of Dorival Jr, who took charge of the team in January.

From the whistle, Vinicius’ pace and trickery posed a constant threat to Paraguay down the left flank, a far cry from his performance in Brazil’s 0-0 draw with Costa Rica in their opening group stage match, in which he was largely ineffectual.

Despite Brazil’s strong start, it was Paraguay who almost went ahead in the 15th minute as Damian Bobadilla’s goal-bound effort took a massive deflection



Brazil’s Vinicius Junior celebrates after scoring against Paraguay in their Copa America group match in Nevada on Friday

Vinicius' pace and trickery posed a constant threat to Paraguay down the left flank, a far cry from his performance in Brazil's 0-0 draw with Costa Rica in their opening group stage match

off Eder Militao and nearly wrongfooted Brazil goalkeeper Alisson Becker, who showed quick reflexes to keep out the

the midfielder made up for his miss seven minutes later as he set up Vinicius with a first-time pass to cap off a flowing team move. Girona winger Savio doubled Brazil’s advantage after pouncing on a rebound inside the box, before Vinicius stuck out a boot to divert a clearance from Omar Alderete into the net for his second goal of the night in first-half stoppage time.

Paraguay got a goal back after the break as Alderete netted a

superb long-range, but any hopes of a comeback were swiftly dashed when Brazil were awarded a penalty in the 68th minute after a handball by Mathias Villasanti.

Despite his earlier miss, Paqueta stepped up and made no mistake at the second time of asking to send Brazil’s fans at the Allegiant Stadium into delirium.

Towards the end of the match, tempers flared and Andres Cubas was shown a red card after kicking

out at Douglas Luiz, with Brazil using their man’s advantage to comfortably see out the game and clinch the three points.

“In particular the first half, up to the 40 minutes, it was very even,” Paraguay coach Daniel Garnero told reporters.

“I think we created some opportunities. Unfortunately, in the three minutes we got a bit distracted and they scored two goals that made a great difference in the result.”

CONMEBOL suspends Argentina and Chile coaches

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni and Chile boss Ricardo Gareca were suspended for one match each after their teams’ late arrival to the field of play during the Copa America, CONMEBOL said in a statement on Friday.

Defending champions Argentina emerged late for the second half of their Copa America opener against Canada last week, and coach Jesse Marsch said that Scaloni’s side should be fined.

Gareca was late in bringing on a player at halftime against Argentina on Tuesday.

The governing sports body said that both coaches are suspended for one match each after their teams failed to comply with articles 104 and 145 of the tournament’s regulations, which relate to taking the field “later than the scheduled start or restart



Lionel Scaloni

The governing sports body said that both coaches are suspended for one match each after their teams failed to comply with articles 104 and 145 of the tournament's regulations

time”. They will not be able to feature on the substitutes’ bench when their sides complete the group stage of the competition on Saturday.

In addition, the Argentine and Chilean football federations were fined \$15,000 each.



Colombia’s Luis Diaz celebrates after scoring against Costa Rica

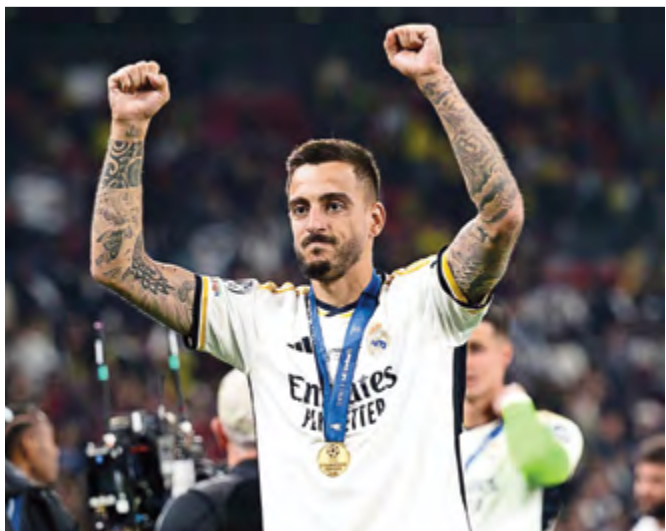
Joselu joins Qatari side Al Gharafa

Doha, Qatar - Spain forward Joselu has joined Al Gharafa on a two-year deal with an option to extend for another year, the Qatar Stars League (QSL) side announced on Friday.

The 34-year-old, who scored 10 goals in 34 LaLiga appearances in 2023-24, is the second Real Madrid player currently playing for Spain in Euro 2024 to join a Middle-Eastern club this week, after Saudi side Al Qadisiyah announced the signing of Nacho on Thursday.

Joselu helped Real reach the Champions League final last season when he came on as a substitute and scored a late brace against Bayern Munich in the second leg of the semi-finals, clinching a 2-1 win for his club.

“Real Madrid thanks Joselu for his professionalism and his madridismo,” Real, who later won the Champions League, said



Joselu

in a statement on Friday.

Former Newcastle United and Stoke City player Joselu’s signing comes as Al Gharafa strengthen their squad for the AFC Champions League Elite qualifiers, after finishing third in the QSL last

season, making their first appearance in Asia’s top-tier competition since 2011.

“The management of our club extends thanks and appreciation to Real Madrid for its great cooperation,” Al Gharafa said.

Galatasaray complete permanent signing of Chelsea winger Ziyech

Istanbul, Turkey - Galatasaray have signed Morocco international Hakim Ziyech from Chelsea on a free transfer, the Turkish Super League champions said in a statement.

The 31-year-old former Chelsea midfielder made a loan move to Galatasaray in a deal reportedly worth 3.6 million euros (\$3.86 million) last year in August with the option to sign permanently on a free transfer if certain conditions were met.

“The football player will be paid a net seasonal wage of 2.85 million euros (\$3.05 million) for the 2024-2025 season, Galatasaray said in a statement



Hakim Ziyech

late of Friday.

“In accordance with the agreement, if the conditional extension option is realised, the football player will be paid a net seasonal salary of 2.85 million euros for the 2025-2026 season.”

Chelsea signed Ziyech from Ajax Amsterdam in 2020. He made 107 appearances and scored 14 goals for the club, winning the Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and Club World Cup.

“We thank Hakim for his efforts during his time at Chelsea and wish him well as he begins the next chapter of his career,” Chelsea said in a statement.

Colombia blank Costa Rica to book knock-out spot

Arizona, US - Colombia cruised to a 3-0 win over Costa Rica in Group D on Friday and booked their spot in the Copa America quarter-finals thanks to strikes from Luis Diaz, Davinson Sanchez and Jhon Cordoba.

Colombia top their group with six points after two matches, ahead of Costa Rica and Brazil.

‘Los Cafeteros’, who will finish the evening first in the group regardless of the later result, sealed a tenth consecutive victory and 25th match without defeat as they pursue their first Copa America title since 2001.

Despite the loss, Costa Rica, who have one point, are still in the running, but they need to secure a win in their final match against Paraguay and hope for other results to go their way.

Colombia started the match

and took the lead in the 31st minute through Liverpool winger Diaz, who confidently converted the penalty spot after Costa Rica goalkeeper Patrick Sequeira bundled over Cordoba in the box.

As Costa Rica pressed for an equaliser they left themselves open on the break and Colombia made them pay, with Sanchez outmuscling defender Juan Pablo Vargas to head Jhon Arias’ corner past Sequeira from close range in the 59th minute.

After scoring, Sanchez held up the jersey of team mate Jhon Lucumi, who missed the match due to an injury.

Cordoba rounded out the scoring three minutes later after timing his run perfectly to stay onside and latch onto James Rodriguez’s long ball before calmly slotting his finish past Sequeira.



India's Jasprit Bumrah celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of South Africa's Reeza Hendricks

INDIA CHAMPIONS

Men in Blue stage thrilling comeback in final overs against South Africa to win T20 World Cup

Bridgetown, Barbados - India beat South Africa by seven runs in a heart-stopping final to win the Twenty20 World Cup at the Kensington Oval on Saturday.

Electing to bat on a dry surface, 2007 champions India overcame a top-order meltdown to post a competitive 176-7.

Virat Kohli (76) struck his first 50 of this World Cup and Axar Patel smashed 47 to power India to a healthy total.

Anrich Nortje and Keshav Maharaj claimed two wickets apiece for South Africa.

The Proteas suffered a top order collapse of their own but Quinton de Kock (39) and Tristan Stubbs (31) put their chase back on track.

Heinrich Klaasen (52) then counter-attacked in spectacular fashion but India's impeccable death-overs bowling restricted South Africa to 169-8.

The Proteas needed 26 from 24 balls in pursuit of 177, but the wicket of Klaasen for 52 from 27 swung a dramatic game in India's favour.

Arshdeep Singh conceded only four from the penultimate over, leaving Hardik Pandya to defend 16 from the last.

David Miller was sensationally caught by Suryakumar Yadav at long-off for 21 from the first ball before India closed out a seven-run win.

always a matter of being consistent with all of the drivers. In terms of qualifying, I was happy with my pace to be honest and I think we always knew it would be tough with so much traffic, the red flags as well.

"We're really focusing now on the race and to move forward. We've done this race many times, and we know we can race from any starting position. We know we have a strong car, so hopefully we can execute it the best possible way.

"I'm looking forward to it, the race will be extremely challenging with an overall entry of almost 70 cars, so we need to have a smooth race and be consistent."

With that in mind, an average combined best lap from the four qualifying sessions of 2m17.188 seconds - roughly just half a second shy of the Bronze class top three - was satisfying enough for the Omani and he is determined to mount a serious challenge in GT3 racing's biggest event of the year.



Oman's Ahmad al Harthy in action

OQ by Oman Racing to start 24 Hours of Spa from p11 in bronze class

Muscat - BMW M4 GT3 racer Ahmad al Harthy is determined to deliver a strong and consistent showing in the CrowdStrike 24 Hours of Spa in Belgium, after the OQ by Oman Racing squad ended qualifying with the 11th fastest time in the Bronze class.

Less than two weeks since he competed in the 24 Hours of Le Mans, the Omani is now embarking on final preparations for the crown jewel event of the Fanatec GT World Challenge Europe powered by AWS Endurance Cup season, which starts at 16.30 local time on Saturday, 29th June.

Joined by regular GTWCE team-mates Sam De Haan and Jens Klingmann, and also squad newcomer Calan Williams in the expanded four driver line-up at Spa-Francorchamps, Al Harthy said the focus throughout the build-up to the event has been on race pace and performance.

"We've been working most on the race pace and the race car, so we know we have a package that can compete. In the 24 Hours it's

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AUDUBON
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AWARDS

Flair with *feathers*

In its 15th year, the Audubon Photography Awards contest showcases diverse avian species, their fascinating behaviours and the habitats needed to keep them alive

Pale white willow ptarmigans flap through a frozen alpine landscape, seemingly invisible against the snow, a wild turkey stretches her wings with dramatic flair, Blackburnian warblers with throat feathers the colour of flames, lock their feet, and beaks together in a tussle... These feathery subjects, and many more, presented their colourful grandeur totally unaware of being captured by watchful lenses somewhere in the vicinity.

For the 15th year, the Audubon

Photography Awards, hosted by the National Audubon Society, has pulled back the curtain on bird behaviour with these scenes and more. Over 2,300 entrants participated in the annual contest this time around, representing all 50 US states, Washington DC, one territory, and nine Canadian provinces.

The bird conservation nonprofit announced the contest winners last week, unveiling a suite of eight winning images and four honourable mentions that feature birds fighting, flying, mating, hunting, foraging and

raising their young.

This year, a new contest category honours images of these feathered creatures in their natural environments - Birds in Landscapes. Alongside this new competition, photographs could be submitted to professional, amateur and youth categories, as well as special categories for birds and native plants (Plants for Birds), unique compositions (Fisher Prize) and often overlooked female birds (Female Bird Prize).

Here are some of the artful and moving entries honoured by the judges:



**Grand Prize Winner:
Blackburnian Warbler**

Two Blackburnian Warblers face each other in profile, their gray and white wings outstretched behind them. Their yellow heads and orange necks stand out against a blurred gray background, and their bills and feet are entangled.

The song of a magnolia warbler drew amateur photographer Mathew Malwitz down the trail in Pennsylvania's Promised Land State Park. But suddenly, his attention was diverted as a pair of birds fell - quite literally - at his feet.

Two male blackburnian warblers with fiery orange throats dropped from the trees as they fought, landing just in front of Malwitz - close enough that he took a step back. For a moment, he wondered if the birds were injured from the impact, but then they continued their dispute.

"Once I realized the pair were too busy to notice me, I slowly dropped to the ground at their level to get a better look into their world," Malwitz tells Audubon magazine. "I adjusted my settings for action and snapped as they fought."

Male blackburnian warblers compete for the best nesting territories, which can lead to some physical altercations.

"This photo incorporates so much of what we all hope for in a spectacular image," contest judge Daniel Dietrich, a wildlife photographer, filmmaker and cinematographer, tells Audubon. "The intense action is captured perfectly as the two animals grasp at each other's beaks. The symmetry of the wing position and colour of the birds are brilliant."

**Amateur Award Winner:
Great-Tailed Grackle**

Silhouetted grackles perch on power lines that bisect the image, with their tails nearly all pointing in the same direction. The sky is purple and pink. Through the whole of the photo are blurry figures of grackles flying through the air.

On the commute home from work in Austin, Texas, Tristan Vratil often drives beneath a massive skyward congregation of great-tailed grackles. When he's stopped in traffic, he watches them.

"I lean onto my steering wheel to look up at the birds flying in a chaotic pattern and wonder whether other drivers notice their beauty," he tells Audubon.

One day, he pulled over at a gas station and set up his camera on a tripod. Against the colourful backdrop of the evening sky, he photographed the group; the stationary birds in crisp focus, sitting on power lines, and the flying ones slightly blurred.

The resulting image "shows us that nature exists not only as an isolated or pristine environment, but also at the intersection of the wild with humans," contest judge Bustamante says to Audubon.

**Youth Award Winner:
American Kestrel**

An American Kestrel stands on a post in profile, and a male kestrel is on her back with his wings stretched behind him. The birds are both in profile facing the left of the frame, the male above appear-



ing to be an extension of the female below.

Parham Pourahmad found a pair of American kestrels in San Jose, California. Both were foraging, eating insects and bits of gravel to aid digestion, when they began to mate. Hoping to catch a picture if the birds repeated the behaviour, Pourahmad waited in the car with his mom, knowing his movements—if detected—could scare the birds away. Soon, the male returned to mate with the female again.

Contest judge Sabine Meyer, photography director for the National Audubon Society, tells Audubon the image is an "elegant composition that has just the right amount of negative space around the action."

**Female Bird Prize:
Wild Turkey**

A female Wild Turkey stands in profile, and her head is held high and wings are fanned out behind her. She stands between railroad tracks littered with leaves that extend into the distance.

While driving home, Travis Potter noticed this female wild turkey foraging around an abandoned railroad track. He got out of the car and stepped into the middle of the rails to frame a well-composed picture.

"That's when she stretched her wings into a ballerina's pose amid the chain-link fence, asphalt and concrete," Potter tells Audubon. "The contrast of natural and manufactured was stark."

Now in its fourth year, the Female Bird Prize aims to put a spotlight on female birds, which are often less colourful than their male counterparts. Sometimes, this leads female birds to be overlooked, meaning they often get left behind in photography, conservation and science.

**Professional Honourable Mention:
Forster's Tern**

A Forster's Tern is in the air, its head turned almost 180 degrees so that its bill is pointing almost straight up, and its tail is twisted. The bird's outstretched wings give the impression the bird is floating upside down. Water droplets appear in a stream

Kevin Lohman found a group of Forster's terns diving into a lake in Mountain View, California, often emerging from its depths with small fish. He wanted to capture a picture of one as it left the water, but because he was using a long lens that has a very narrow field of view, Lohman had to predict where the birds would surface. When this one burst from the lake, he clicked the shutter.

"This tern popped up near me and did a quick shake, sending droplets in every direction," Lohman tells Audubon. "When it twisted its head to remove the water, it looked like it was flying upside-down."

(Courtesy: smithsonianmag.com)



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What companies hide from consumers

Have you ever been searching for important information about a product on its package - whether it's about ingredients, weight, manufacturer, product profile, directions for use, even the price - and not been able to detect it? That, after all, may not be a mistake or a slip, as many firms intentionally conceal/withhold certain information or mention it in vague or ambiguous terms to serve some purpose.

Most consumers think that all information about their products and services is available. However, the truth is that there are many cases where a company hides important information about its products or services intentionally. Some companies simply don't want you to know certain information about their products or services.

There are many ways to hide information from a customer or to put it in such a way that it serves the purpose of mention yet doesn't quite reveal crucial facts to the consumer.

Often, the communication might be too difficult to understand for the customer. So, some businesses try to hide information about a certain product on the packaging. This way, they do not have to explain the product's features to the customer.

In addition, some companies try to hide the price of their products. It might deter the consumer if the price was too high. It is possible to find the price on the website, but it is often too low. By hiding the price, a company can make a profit by making the products appear to have a lower price.

A company may not want to reveal the name of a new product. As when the name of a new product is displayed, it may be a problem. Some companies may also want to hide the identity of the owner - in some countries, the law requires companies to reveal the identity of the owner. Also, companies may want to hide the fact that they are selling counterfeit goods or goods that do not meet the standards of its competitors.

Hidden Prices

Companies often hide the prices of their products from their customers. They will usually do this so that they can get customers to buy more than they want or need. For instance, they may tell customers that a product is only available for a limited time at a special price or that only a few units are left. However, the company will not need to lie about the price. If the price is not stated clearly, then the customer will assume that the product is available for free.

Location of the store

Another thing that companies try to hide from their customers is the location of their store. They will often hide the site so that it looks like their products are available all over the country or even the world. For instance, they might put the address in an area that doesn't seem very popular with customers.

To protect trade secrets

Trade secrets are very important to any company. They are used for things like inventions, formulas, and designs. When a company wants to protect these things, it may want to keep them secret and not mention the components or processes involved in the manufacture.

Company's image

Sometimes a company has to do things they aren't proud of. For example, a company might sell something they know is harmful to the environment. In this case, they may want to hide it from their customers.

Hurting sentiments

Some people may feel uncomfortable if they learn information about them. For example, they may not want to know they are overweight, have a bad credit score, or have a disease. These things could make them feel embarrassed or ashamed. Companies may want to keep these things secret.

Company's reputation

Sometimes a company may want to hide information because they don't want the public to know they are doing something wrong. For example, they may want to keep their actions a secret because they want to protect their business.

Three ways to disclose information

Clear product description

Companies usually create product descriptions for their products or services. A good product description clearly defines the purpose of the product or service, the features that the product or service has, how the product or service works, what the product or service costs, and who the product or service is for. A good product description will give customers the information they need to decide whether or not they would like to purchase the product or service.

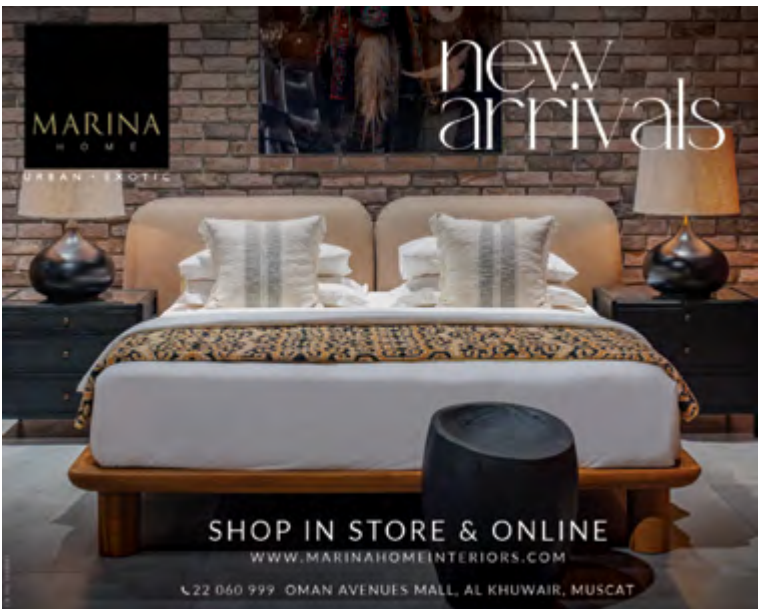
Full details

Companies should provide full information about their products or services. Companies that sell products and services usually offer their customers many different options for choosing the products or services they need. When companies provide full details about their products or services, they communicate that they understand what their customers want and want to give the information their customers need.

Offer incentives

Companies sometimes provide incentives to encourage customers to purchase their products or services. These incentives might include special discounts, rebates, free products, or giveaways. Providing incentives to encourage customers to purchase their products or services is one of the most effective ways that companies can increase sales.

(With inputs from strategicadvisorboard.com)



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