

**ADMISSION CENTRE TO ANNOUNCE
RESULTS OF FIRST SORTING**

The Higher Education Admission Centre (HEAC) at the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation will announce on 16 August 2023 the results of the first sorting for the academic year 2023/2024. **>A3**



**HM THE SULTAN GREETES
PRESIDENT OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Dr. Alassane Dramane Ouattara, of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments and best wishes to President Dr. Alassane and the people of his country. — **ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 48 No. 111 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

[TIMESOFOMAN.COM](#) [FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#) [TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#) [YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE](#) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP](#) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS](#) [LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN](#) [INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#)



Download now



Paying bills one by one?

Now pay everything in one go with mBanking App



Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

BARKA

Khazaen Economic City attracts OMR316mn worth of investments



BARKA: The volume of investments attracted by Khazaen Economic City in Barka till the end of June 2023 stood at OMR316 million (\$821 million). Statistics issued by Khazaen Economic City showed that the value of foreign investments amounted to OMR186 million, while the value of local investments amounted to OMR130 million.

The statistics further showed that the total number of nationalities invested in the city are 16, the number of signed agreements reached 100, the number of projects under construction reached 23, and the number of direct job opportunities reached 300 for

national cadres in various sectors. Khazaen Economic City explained that the most prominent investments are in the logistics as the total value of investments in this sector amounted to OMR60 million, while the number of agreements reached 20. As many as 10 agreements were signed in the food sector with an investment volume of OMR87 million.

Meanwhile, the agreements signed in the industrial sector amounted to OMR92 million for 65 investment agreements.

As for the pacts signed in the pharmaceutical sector, they amounted to 5 with an investment of OMR77 million. — **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Oman participates in Brunei book fair

1 The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, took part in the Brunei Darussalam Book Fair. The aim is to introduce Omani publications and highlight Oman's cultural, historic and literary heritage. It also targeted boosting cultural communication between the two countries. **>A3**

WORLD

30 dead, 80 injured in Pakistan train crash

2 At least 30 people were killed and over 80 others have been injured after 10 bogies of Hazara Express derailed on Sunday near Sahara Railway Station in Sindh's Nawabshah district, 275 kilometres away from Karachi. The cause of the train disaster is still unknown. **>A6**

MARKET

OMR195.8mn worth of fish caught in Oman

3 Artisanal fishing constituted 93.9 percent of fish landed in the Sultanate of Oman at the end of June 2023 to stand at 371,647 tonnes, going up by 5 percent compared to the same period in 2022, which stood at 353,950 tonnes. The value of landed fish stood at OMR195.884 million. **>B1**

'HIDDEN TRADE IS A BIG HURDLE IN OMAN'S GROWTH'

Hidden trade practices have been undermining the economy and destabilising markets

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani businesspersons and citizens have wholeheartedly welcomed the recent ministerial decision to combat hidden trade practice in the Sultanate of Oman.

The decision by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) is part of the government's proactive approach to stem the economic and social fallout from hidden trade practices, which have been undermining the national economy and destabilising local markets, according to an Omani businessman Hazza bin Saleh Al Balushi.

Saleh Al Balushi said: "The hidden trade led to a sense of fear among Omanis, who were keen to start up business as they felt that they couldn't compete with the expatriates. It was a big hurdle in the growth of Oman's economy."

"This sort of climate was so negative that it also created a difficult and challenging environment for Omani job seekers."

Hidden trade led to a host of negative consequences, including commercial fraud, unfair competition, tax evasion, and circumvention of established procedures.

Al Balushi added: "Lot of Omanis felt the pinch and took up the matter with the concerned authorities to introduce a new regulation to combat this practice that was damaging Oman's economic growth."

Hidden trade practices include diverting an establishment's revenues, profits, or contract pro-



HIDDEN TRADE PRACTICES INCLUDE DIVERTING AN ESTABLISHMENT'S REVENUES, PROFITS, OR CONTRACT PROCEEDS TO PERSONAL OR UNREGISTERED ACCOUNTS, PROVIDING INACCURATE DATA OR INFORMATION DURING THE ESTABLISHMENT SETUP OR LICENCE APPLICATION

ceeds to personal or unregistered accounts, providing inaccurate data or information during the establishment setup or license application, or granting expatriates absolute disposal power over a facility.

Omani citizen, Mohammed Al Aufi, said: "Following the implementation of the new regulations, a much better and conducive business environment will be in place as the resolution introduces stricter measures for repeat

violations. fine but also result in the suspension of the activity for three months. A third violation will lead to a fine, along with the activity being removed from the commercial register for a year."

Dr. Rajab bin Ali Al Owaisi, an expert in social and educational studies at the State Council, stressed that the decision to combat hidden trade keeps pace with national policies to build a promising economy and a stable national labour market. **See >A2**



Royal Air Force of Oman wins first place in international competition

A4

PILOT PROJECT

Appeal system for marks review launched in Indian school

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A pilot project has been launched for students to review their marks during term examinations in Indian School Muscat (ISM) in Oman.

Confirming the development, Dr Sivakumar Manickam, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Indian Schools Oman, said: "This is a new system introduced by ISM and if the desired success and goals are met with this new project, we would extend it to other schools."

According to a circular issued recently by the ISM "the students will have the right to make a formal appeal against the grades scored in the term examinations from class 1-12 against a fee of OMR3 per subject." Manickam added: "This

is to help students if they are dissatisfied with their marks. As a pilot project, ISM has introduced it internally."

The ISM circular reads: "This is to inform you that the school has decided to form an Appeal Committee to address the concerns of children/parents in the marks awarded in the Term Examinations (STD I to XII) conducted by the school."

"This is an additional facility provided to the children or parents to put up their concerns, if any related to the marks awarded to the children. This facility is not applicable for the internal assessments (class work, project work, practical, notebook, portfolio etc.) and for the examinations conducted by the CBSE."



The circular added: "All students are requested to follow the normal channel in the beginning like approaching the respective subject teacher or the class teacher or the AVP and VP of the respective section to address their concern related to the marks obtained by the children. If the concern is not

addressed by the above team up to the satisfaction of the children or parents, then they can put up a formal application to the appeal committee by paying a nominal non-refundable fee of OMR3 per subject in the specified format. The appeal form can be collected from the school admission office between

7.30 am and 2.30 pm on all working days." The application should be submitted to the school admission office along with the copy of the fee payment within five working days of releasing the marks by the school.

"No application will be considered by the appeal committee if it is received after five days of releasing the result. The appeal committee will be composed of two subject experts other than the respective subject teacher, AVP and VP of the respective section. The decision of the appeal committee will be final and binding. The application fee (OMR3) will be refunded to the child if there is any change in the marks based on the evaluation by the appeal committee," added the circular.



A unique experience
theguideoman.com @guideoman

390 MUSCAT



PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr12:18pm
Asr3:42pm
Maghrib6:51pm
Isha8:08pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:18am

Ministerial decision on hidden trade to shield economy from adverse effects

The ministerial decision aims at regulating commercial businesses, and creating a suitable business environment for Omani and foreign investors

Times News Service

MUSCAT A number of officials, businessmen and writers in the Sultanate of Oman have praised the Ministerial decision No. 412/2023 on combating the commercial concealment activities (the hidden trade) in the Sultanate of Oman, in cooperation with a number of government entities, due to its economic and social repercussions on business and society in the country, while the decision comes as a response for the successive appeals of citizens over the past years to combat this phenomenon.

The officials, businessmen and writers, emphasised that the decision will significantly contribute to avoiding the adverse effects of hidden trade on the national economy and local markets, which include the increasing cases of commercial fraud, the impact on the organising of the labour market, the unequal competition with entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises, the tax evasion, and the scam on the in force procedures.

They also stressed that the decision to combat hidden trade also came to contribute to the implementation of the executive regulations of the Foreign Capital Investment Law, which will enhance the creating of an attractive investment environment and appropriate conditions for it in the Sultanate of Oman by detailing the necessary procedures for registering foreign institutions and companies as well as determining the conditions, controls and dates that necessary for issuing approvals, permits or licences related to investment projects in implementation of the provisions of the Foreign Capital Investment Law.

The ministerial decision aims at regulating commercial businesses, creating a suitable business environment for Omani and foreign investors, organising financial transfers outside the Sultanate of Oman, reducing unequal competition for entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises, and reducing cases that result from hidden trade activities, as well as it will contribute to finding a clear definition of hidden trade in order to curb and to reduce the practice of prohibited economic activities, creating a business environment based on fair competition and equal opportunities, supporting small and medium enterprises, and limiting the acquisition of expatriate labour for some economic activities.

Dr. Rajab bin Ali Al-Owaisi, an expert in social and educational studies at the State Council, stressed that the decision to combat hidden trade is considered as an ambitious direction that keeps pace with national policies to build a promising economy and a stable national labour market, as the issuance of this decision, by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, which will come into force after 90 days from the date of its publishing in the Official Gazette, has come in line with the government's directions regarding the issuance of Labor Law No. (53/2023) and its role in stabilising the business environment in the Sultanate of Oman, and in creating an attractive investment environment and appropriate conditions for it in the Omani labor market.

He added that the issuance of decision to combat hidden trade has also come in line with the national efforts to localise some



“The decision to combat hidden trade is considered as an ambitious direction that keeps pace with national policies of the Sultante of Oman to build a promising economy and a stable national labour market

Dr. Rajab bin Ali Al-Owaisi
Expert in social studies

professions and jobs in the labour market and private sector companies in order to be exclusively for Omanis, while the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion in a previous period has issued a ministerial decision, prohibiting foreign investment on many economic activities , including retail, some services, beauty, entertainment and a lot of other activities.

Al Owaisi pointed out that, the decision to combat hidden trade also affirms the keenness of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion within the framework of its follow-up to the economic situation and its response to the successive appeals from citizens over the past years to stop the hidden trade phenomenon and to put in place fixed procedures that ensure, over time, the total elimination of the phenomenon and its negative effects on the business environment. and on the stability of the work environment and its economic and social repercussions on national employees, entrepreneurs and the Omani society as a whole in light of the instability that may result from it and from the increase in monopoly

He clarified that the hidden trade contributes to the emergence of some harmful economic practices that distort the image of the labour market and reduce the interest of serious citizens and resident business owners who have a presence in the labour market and limiting their desire to continue in light of the risks and imbalances that resulting from



“With no doubt, the hidden trade practised by some foreign individuals in cooperation with citizens has negative effects. Efforts must be combined among to combat this phenomenon to preserve the country's economy.

Abdullah bin Ahmed Al-Dhuhli
Businessman

practicing the hidden trade.

Dr. Rajab Al Owaisi added: With no doubt, such serious measures contribute to create a safety space that preserves the national gains achieved in this path, whether through the investment law, the bankruptcy law, the anti-monopoly law and other laws that constitute a safety station to maintain a high degree of economic balances, which in turn contributes to raising the ceiling of foreign investment and maximizing the presence of serious foreign investors. At the same time, the citizen and foreign investor feels more stability, confidence and reassurance that the hidden trade, which is considered the arch-enemy of the success of serious investment, small and medium enterprises and companies operating according to regulations and laws and by flooding the labor market with activitiesIt is not practiced by specialists and is not relied upon by those concerned, while it causes great harm to the life and security of the citizen in a number of professions and works particularly in the fields of electricity, water and gas connections, or those fields concerned with health, medical, pharmaceutical, food and public life necessities.

Al-Owaisi also pointed out that the clear provisions of the decision to combat hidden trade, the stability of its procedures, the smoothness of its handling of data in the various influential and active sectors, will contribute to create community mobilisation and social awareness that



“The hidden trade is an old continuous phenomenon and its difficult to curb it, as it is deep rooted, except with a serious firm decision followed by serious implementation on the ground

Eng Said bin Nasser Al-Rashdi
CEO of Insurance House

strengthen the implementing of the provisions of the decision, and establishes an advanced stage of integration between the government and the citizen, while this promising historic decision and the opportunities it delineates will enhance the stability of the labour market.

He also clarified that the decision distinguishes with the clarity of the penalties, the efficiency of procedures, the reference of its tools, and its interactive frameworks, that in light of the presence of legal and judicial control of specialists from the Ministry and other agencies in the control of facilities and also in light of the presence of a plurality of means of reporting and tools for accessing the problem.

He stressed that the decision drew guidelines that begin with the individual's awareness of his responsibilities and duties, the importance of preserving society, and strengthening the efforts seeking to enable the citizen to play a greater role in the economy of the next stage, as the decision clarified the penalties against whatever contravene the provisions of the decision and its articles, as well as the explanations and clear and adequate answers that the decision carried in its articles and provisions will contribute to preventing any unilateral interpretations, justifications, and moody ideas.

This contributes to blocking the pretexts generated by tampering with the public right or from trying to influence national economic policies and their stability through



“The hidden trade is considered an incurable disease in various countries globally, as well as it is one of the most serious challenges facing countries, as it is a scourge whose movements and impact cannot be monitored easily

Hazza bin Saleh Al-Balushi
citizen

these abuses and ideas resulting from hidden trade.

For his part, Engineer Said bin Nasser Al-Rashdi, CEO of the Insurance House, said: “The hidden trade is an old continuous phenomenon and its difficult to curb it, as it is deep rooted, except with a serious firm decision followed by serious implementation on the ground, as the decision to combat hidden trade issued by the Ministry of Commerce Industry and investment promotion will contribute to support local traders, particularly small shops, which will have a fair share of the market after disposing of the hidden trade that was negatively affecting them.

Engineer Said Al-Rashdi added: “There is no doubt that this decision, along with the previous decisions that facilitate the registration of the foreign investor and his actual possession of his trade, will rid us of violations of illegally leasing commercial records, as the dealings between the consumer and the merchant will be more transparent and in conformity with the laws and regulations in force in the Sultanate of Oman, so we hope that the Ministry will work to guarantee the rights of consumers in a way that enhances their ability to face the challenges that may arise from the fact that some foreign investors who work without a guarantor or a local sponsor receive sums of money and then scape to their countries, leaving behind customers who will not receive goods or recover their rights.”

Hazza bin Saleh Al-Balushi pointed out that, the hidden trade is considered an incurable disease in various countries globally, as well as it is one of the most serious challenges facing countries, as it is a scourge whose movements and impact cannot be monitored easily, as it directly negatively affects the country's economy through pressures that may it is practiced behind the scenes, especially when it is very large and has high returns, depending on the type of activity and its extent and strength.

Hazza Al Balushi added: “Perhaps the efforts of the Sultanate of Oman in the past years were the focus of attention, but this phenomenon was steadfast in the face of all those efforts for that, and after the decision to combat hidden trade issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and with the help of other parties, we can say that it is a bold and effective step that will contribute to address this issue and eliminating it, as the decision is considered the impregnable injection against the hidden trade, rather, it will work to address this issue from all aspects in order to preserve the Omani society from the effects of the hidden trade, by following up on the implementation of the decision with the support

of the authorities and through comprehensive monitoring of activities and establishments in all their forms, including ensuring the validity of data and information in documents and licenses, in addition to educating community members through various media outlets about hidden trade and the penalties and penalties resulting from violating the text of this decision.”

Hazza Al Balushi stressed that the citizen must provide assistance to the concerned authorities and report cases of concealment in order to take legal measures. Thus, the Omani citizen or small and medium enterprises can then practice various activities amid a legal regulation based on legislation, legal foundations and comprehensive control in various fields.

He pointed out that, the hidden trade had a prominent role in standing up to the aspirations of many job seekers, because the full-time and work-loving citizen became in a state of fear and anxiety from the competition of expatriates, and the citizen did not have the ability to stand in front of them or compete with them, and this created a difficult environment for job seekers injoining the market for fear of losing.

He said: “What is mentioned in this regard is the saying of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimur in his meeting with citizens at (Seeh al-Shamkhat on 1/27/2013) where pointed out the subject of hidden trade and stressed on its seriousness, saying: “... most of all, and I hereby say clearly, it is to move away from the hidden trade activities, as it is not in the interest of our sons and daughters, nor in the interest of the adults who see benefit from the expatriate in return for the small money they receive from the expatriate, while this is completely harmful to the national economy, and we must be aware of this matter and give it all attention because it is a loss for this country”. So this is clear evidence of the danger of hidden trade and its wide impact on the state's economies and growth.”

Abdullah bin Ahmed Al-Dhuhli, a businessman, said: “With no doubt, the hidden trade practised by some foreign individuals in cooperation with some citizens has multiple negative effects.

Al-Dhuhlii pointed out that the decision issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Investment Promotion to combat hidden trade will curb this phenomenon, which has grown in the recent period in all various commercial activities and has had a clear impact on work output and quality, as well as a significant impact on institutions and activities that operate in accordance with the law and in accordance with applicable quality standards.

He added: “Therefore, efforts must be combined among the people of society to combat this phenomenon in order to preserve the country's economy, the outputs and quality of work, and to preserve the serious Omani and foreign investors alike who work in accordance with the system and the law, explaining that, the phenomenon of hidden trade will compete with these investors due to the absence of fair competition standards, which will inflict financial losses on committed institutions and push them to exit the market in favour of these absurd groups.

Al-Dhuhli emphasised that it has become necessary for every individual in this society to be responsible and has an important role to play in combating such wrong practices, and to be careful not to allow a foreigner to use his name or commercial register to practice hidden trade, pointing out that, the latest decision No. 412/ 2023 issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Investment Promotion came at the right time to address the phenomenon of hidden trade, support serious investors, pave the way for them, and combat those who tamper with the market and trade under the umbrella of hidden trade.

It is worth noting that the hidden trade leads to unfair competition for the owners of small and medium enterprises and enhances the monopoly of foreigners for some commercial activities, while most of the profits of the hidden trade are transferred abroad and increasing the number of cases of commercial fraud.



Need cash?

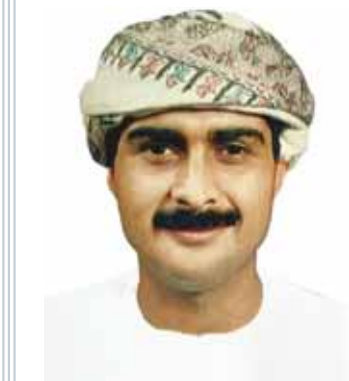
Transfer money easily from your credit card to your account

2477 5777 | www.maisarah-oman.com | [f/MaisarahOman](#) | [@MaisarahIslamic](#) | [@MaisarahIslamic](#)

MAISARAH
البنك الإسلامي
Islamic Banking Services

COMMENTARY

Are we too authoritative with our children?



Saleh Al-Shaibany

There is a problem when we deal with youngsters these days. We are just too authoritative at a point that their minds shut off when we tell them what to do in their lives.

Parents are too protective and often drive their children astray when they try to tell them what to do all the time. As parents, we forget that children have access to a wealth of information, both bad and good, from the internet.

What works these days is not shouting at them, or even worse, constant lectures. What teenagers need most is listening to. They see many challenges outside their homes and read a lot of confusing materials in the social media. If we sit with them and listen to them, then we will find enough time to correct them according to their own personal experiences.

When they come to us for an advice, this is an acceptable way to them because we are ready to listen. They will not feel that parents are too obsessive with their lives. That means that youngsters must be treated as equal when they reach a certain stage.

The biggest challenge to them when they go to colleges and universities where they



spend too much time in a different environment, facing a variety of challenges. Statistics here in Oman show that over 10,000 youngsters study abroad for their higher education living away from their parents. They face different challenges. Most of them like it because they find themselves away from the "shackles" of the parents and constant 'lectures'.

It is the start of their paths to adulthood, though Omani parents see the age of 18 is too young for their children to take their own decisions. However, even if their children study in Oman for their degrees, it is impossible to look at their activities outside their homes. So trusting them is the only way to make them feel that now they can make their own decisions while preparing for their future.

We know that not everything can be taught at home while at the same time not everything can be taught in the classroom. Creating the balance of the two is important. The recent research conducted by the Sultan

Qaboos Research shows that nearly 40 per cent of graduates fail to get jobs because they went through a bad 'emotional' childhood at home.

This happens when they cannot answer the interviews questions because their communications skills are not good enough. And what the connection has this got to do with raising children?

The answer is simple. When these graduates were growing up, they spend too much time 'lectured' by parents and little time to speak for themselves. In other words, they miss the communication skills of a two-way conversation.

What this tells us that parents can encourage their children to talk about themselves from the early stages to improve their communications skills. This may shock us when we connect getting jobs and raising children but there is a formidable truth in it. In other words, letting our children the time to voice their concerns without fear is important for their future.

Big turnout of visitors at Oman's book fair pavilion in Brunei Darussalam

Oman's participation in book fair contributes to enhancing cultural ties between the Sultanate and Brunei Darussalam



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, took part in the Brunei Darussalam Book Fair.

The participation aims to introduce Omani publications and highlight Oman's cultural, historical and literary heritage. It also targeted boosting cultural communication between the two countries.

Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Nazmi bin Haji Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth of Brunei Darussalam viewed several Omani publications during the book fair's opening ceremony. He expressed his admiration of the publications, as well as the heritage and cultural exhibits in Oman's pavilion.

The Minister said that the Oman-Brunei relations extend for more than three decades of active cooperation in various fields, especially in cultural and related fields.

Erma Said Al Kithiri, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam said that participating in this event aims to highlight the cultural and intellectual movement in Oman.

This participation, she added, contributes to enhancing cultural ties between the Sultanate of Oman and Brunei Darussalam.

Moreover, Oman's pavilion saw a great turnout of visitors from various nationalities. -ONA



ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024

Admission centre to announce results of 1st sorting on 16 August

MUSCAT: The Higher Education Admission Centre (HEAC) at the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation will announce on 16 August 2023 the results of the first sorting for the academic year 2023/2024.

Dr. Hamad Khalfan Al Nu'amani, Director General of HEAC said that the results of the first sorting are expected to witness high competition, especially on high-demand educational programmes, such as programmes of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) and scholarships abroad, as well as health and education specializations in various establishments that offer such programmes. -ONA



Dr. Hamad Khalfan Al Nu'amani, Director General of Higher Education Admission Centre.



TO SERVE YOU BETTER



Darsait	71799930
Al Qurum	71799931
Barka	71799934
Buraimi	71799937
Ibra	71799940
Ibri	71799938
Nizwa	71799939
Salalah	71799942
Seeb	71799932
Sohar	71799936
Sur	71799941
Al Suwaiq	71799935

PROVIDING FLEXIBLE INSURANCE SOLUTIONS SINCE 1985
FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS, CHOOSE US

OMAN UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY SAOG
Post Box 1522, Ruwi, PC 112 Sultanate of Oman
24477300 | info@omanutd.com | www.omanutd.com



Oman United Insurance Co.
SAOG



ROYAL AIR FORCE OF OMAN WINS FIRST PLACE IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

MUSCAT: The Royal Air Force of Oman achieved first place in overall appearance in the first competition in Dandenong, as part of its participation in the World Music Competition currently being held in Scotland, United Kingdom.

The participation of military bands in international music competitions aims to hone the skills of its members and enhance their abilities and artistic potential, in addition to providing them with various musical experiences, in line with the established training plans.

It is noteworthy that the World Music Competition will continue until 21 August. More than 180 bands are participating in it, distributed over five cities in Scotland. -ONA












circlee

25% OFF

Total Bill

Download the App NOW!





امتلئوها بثقة
Reliably Yours

THE
BIG

COMPRESSOR
IS BACK



Follow us on
f t i @hommeroman
MyHommer.com

FOR ANY ENQUIRIES,
PLEASE CONTACT :
24818018 / 24818039,
WHATSAPP ONLY : 99316742

AVAILABLE AT LEADING
DEALER OUTLETS



MUSTAFA SULTAN ELECTRONICS CO. LLC

f @MustafaSultanElectronics

i @MustafaSultanElectronics

t @mustafa_sultanE

p @mustafa_sultanE

CR No. 1/25245/4

Tourism on the rise in Al Dhahirah Governorate

The commercial movement in the Wilayat of Ibri is witnessing a remarkable rise from the Gulf, especially in the hotel sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Since the start of the 2023 Dhofar Khareef season, the Wilayat of Ibri in Al Dhahirah Governorate has been witnessing tourist arrivals and commercial movements from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Since the Wilayat of Ibri overlooks the Empty Quarter border crossing which connects the Sultanate of Oman with Saudi Arabia, for visitors coming from the Hafeet port in Al Buraimi Governorate, Al Dhahirah Governorate becomes their resting point before onwards journey to the Dhofar Governorate.

A remarkable rise

The commercial movement in the Wilayat of Ibri is witnessing a remarkable rise from the Gulf, especially in the hotel sector, as many visitors take rest in the Wilayat of Ibri on their way to the Dhofar Governorate, which is about 900 kilometres away from the Al Dhahirah Governorate.

Ali bin Khamis Al-Sudairi, Assistant Director of the Department of Heritage and Tourism in Al-Dhahirah Governorate, pointed to the increased activity of ho-



tels and hotel establishments in the governorate, explaining that the average occupancy rate in hotels in the region ranged between 60 to 85 percent during July, which indicates the recovery of tourism sector.

He added that a number of government institutions in Al Dhahirah Governorate seek to facilitate the movement of tourists to Dhofar Governorate by providing information and guidance about tourist sites that they may wish to visit in Al Dhahirah Governorate, in addition to a map of tourist sites through the Tourist

Information Centre set up by the Department. Heritage and Tourism in Al Dhahirah Governorate

The government units also give support to civil teams in the Wilayat of Ibri.

The Ibri Charity Team participates in providing necessary support and roadside assistance to visitors whose vehicles may break down during their trip to the Dhofar Governorate.

To facilitate the movement of tourists through Al-Dhahirah Governorate, the institutional and civil society cooperate for the convenience of tourists.

SALALAH CITY

Meeting reviews GOIC strategy for 2024-2028



SALALAH: The GCC Undersecretaries of Industry yesterday held the 2nd regular session of the executive office of the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC).

The meeting was held in Salalah City under the chair of Dr. Saleh Said Masn, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry and Head of the GOIC executive office's current session, in the presence of Ahmed Mohammed Al Mohammed, GOIC Secretary General.

The meeting discussed a number of topics, including a review of GOIC strategy for 2024-2028, through which the organisation seeks to complete about 72 industrial projects for the member states and the GCC General Secretariat, in addition to presenting 15 other initiatives and achieving 14 strategic goals.

The meeting also approved minutes of the executive office's previous session and followed up the implementation of its decisions, as well as ratifying the proposed estimated budget for 2024.-ONA

HEAVY RAINS IN RUSTAQ AND AL-AWABI

The wilayats of Rustaq and Al-Awabi in the South Al Batinah Governorate witnessed heavy rains on Sunday evening leading to the overflow of wadis.-ONA



Tender

جامعة التقنية والعلوم التطبيقية
University of Technology and Applied Sciences

Local Online Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender Committee at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences announces the tenders shown in the following table:

S.N.	Tender No.	Tender Subject	Establishments eligible to bid	Document's Price	Last date for bid purchase online	Last date for bid submission
1	47/2023	Purchase and supply of textbooks for the foundation program students for the university branches	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the Excellent and First Grades	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	15/08/2023 at 02:30 pm	20/08/2023 at 10:00 am
2	48/2023	Consulting services (design and supervision) for the construction of the engineering department building at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Ibra	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the First Grade	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	30/08/2023 at 02:30 pm	14/09/2023 at 10:00 am
3	49/2023	Providing cleaning services for the buildings of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Muscat branch	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the Excellent Grade	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	31/08/2023 at 02:30 pm	14/09/2023 at 10:00 am
4	50/2023	Consulting services (design) for the establishment of student services centers in the branches of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the First Grade	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	30/08/2023 at 02:30 pm	14/09/2023 at 10:00 am

Tender documents may be purchased online starting from Sunday 06/08/2023 at 07:30 am through the following link:
<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>

Preference in awarding will be given to small and medium enterprises registered with the Authority for SME development and whose bid includes the biggest percentage of Omanisation and a biggest purchase percentage of national products.

The University shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid.

Broad Horizons

آفاق واسعة

utas_oman

utas.edu.om

IN 2022

EU govts increased R&D allocations

BRUSSELS: In 2022, the total government budget allocations for R&D (GBARD) across the EU stood at Euro 117.4 million, equivalent to 0.74 per cent of the GDP. This was a 5.4 per cent increase compared with 2021 (Euro 111.393 million) and a 49.2 per cent increase compared with 2012 (Euro 78.656 million).
Data on government budget al-

locations for R&D (GBARD) published by Eurostat showed that in 2022, government budget allocations for R&D at the EU level stood at Euro 262.7 per person, a 47.2 per cent increase compared with 2012 (Euro 178.5 per person).

Highest allocations
The highest allocations were recorded in Luxembourg (Euro 661.6

per person), followed at a distance by Denmark (Euro 529.1) and Germany (Euro 517.6).
On the other hand, EU countries with the lowest R&D budget allocations per person were Romania (Euro 17.6 per person), Bulgaria (Euro 27.3) and Latvia (Euro 49.6).
Between 2012 and 2022, all EU governments increased their budget allocations for R&D in

terms of Euro per person. The largest percentage increases were recorded in Latvia (+208 per cent from Euro16.1 per person in 2012 to Euro 49.6 in 2022) and Greece (+129 per cent from Euro 66.0 to Euro 151.2). Sweden registered the lowest percentage increase in this reference period (+4 per cent from Euro 377.7 to Euro 391.6).

— ANI/WAM



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



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

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

Japan marks 78th anniversary of Hiroshima atomic bombing

Hiroshima Mayor
Kazumi Matsui
called for the
abolition of nuclear
weapons and
described the
nuclear deterrence
policy of G7 as ‘folly’

TOKYO: Japan on Sunday commemorated the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in the final phase of World War II.
Considering the growing nuclear threat worldwide, the mayor of Hiroshima Kazumi Matsui called for the abolition of nuclear weapons and described the nuclear deterrence policy of G7 as “folly.”
“They must immediately take concrete steps to move us from the dangerous present to our ideal world,” he said as a peace bell rang on Sunday at 8:15 a.m. — exactly when on August 6, 1945, US bomber Enola Gay set off the world’s



first atomic bomb dropped on a population center.
This year, the G7 summit took place in Hiroshima, which happens to be Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida’s home constituency.
“Leaders around the world must confront the reality that nuclear

threats now being voiced by certain policymakers reveal the folly of nuclear deterrence theory,” Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui said at the ceremony which was also attended by Kishida.
At the memorial ceremony about 50,000 people, including aging victims who survived the

bombing, gathered and observed a moment of silence.
Drums of nuclear war beating again: Antonio Guterres
The anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing was commemorated amid the growing threat of nuclear weapons propelled by Russia’s in-

vasion of Ukraine.
The issue poses a tricky balancing act for Kishida. Japan is traditionally an advocate of nuclear disarmament, in no small part because of the legacy of the attacks on Hiroshima and then Nagasaki three days later.
However, it also supports the

partly nuclear-armed G7’s group stance that members with atomic weapons shall retain them for as long as they’re a necessary deterrent against other nuclear powers.
World leaders
“World leaders have visited this city, seen its monuments, spoken with its brave survivors, and emerged emboldened to take up the cause of nuclear disarmament,” he said in remarks read by a UN representative. “More should do so, because the drums of nuclear war are beating once again.”
The American atomic bomb which was dropped on Hiroshima was nicknamed “Little Boy.” It is thought to have killed as many as 140,000 people by the end of 1945. Three days later, the US dropped a second bomb on Nagasaki. It is believed to have killed up to 70,000 over the next four months.
A few days after the bombings, on August 15, Japan made an official announcement that it was surrendering. Soon after, on September 2, Japan formally capitulated, bringing an end to World War II in Asia. Whether using the bombs brought about a speedier, and possibly even more bloodless, end to the war or whether it was an ultimately unnecessary show of force remains a fierce debate among historians almost eight decades on.
— DW

NEAR SAHARA RAILWAY STATION



Pakistan passenger train derailment kills at least 30 people

SINDH: At least 30 people were killed and over 80 others have been injured after 10 bogies of Hazara Express derailed on Sunday near Sahara Railway Station in Sindh’s Nawabshah district, 275 kilometres away from Karachi, Geo News reported.
Benazirabad Division Commissioner Abbas Baloch said in a statement that at least 30 died in the incident while passengers are still stranded in a bogie of the Havelian-bound Hazara Express.
He said a relief train is also about to arrive and emergency has been imposed in hospitals of the district. Successive governments in Pakistan have for years been trying to secure funds to upgrade the rail network as part of China’s Belt and Road Initiative for infrastructure projects.
Benazirabad Deputy Inspector General of Police Younis Chandio said that nine out of 10 wrecked bogies had been cleared, with injured and deceased being pulled out, according to Geo News.
The deputy inspector general said that in order to clear the remaining bogie, large machinery is required.
The cause of the train disaster is still unknown.
People on the site and local authorities have shifted the wounded passengers to the People’s Medi-

cal Hospital in Sindh’ Nawabshah, which reportedly can cater to around 1,000 people.
The train operations to and from the interior districts of Sindh were suspended after the train crash, with railway authorities saying that it may take up to 18 hours to restore operations.
Ill-fated train
Authorities fear heavy material and life losses as the ill-fated train is said to be carrying a large number of people, even more than its capacity.
The train, comprising 17 bogies with a capacity of 950 passengers in its economy class and 72 in its air-conditioned standard coach, went off track on its way to Havelian from Karachi in district Sanghar, the senior superintendent of police said.
He said that 10 Station House Officers, four district superintendent of police (DSPs) and more than 100 police personnel are participating in rescue work.
A large number of police personnel from the Police Training Centre are also present for relief work.
Pakistan Army also joined the relief activities at the site of the accident after special instructions issued by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir.

— ANI

UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Food insecurity tops agenda

NEW YORK: The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) convened a high-level meeting, chaired by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, to address global food security concerns, as the United States assumes the UNSC presidency for the month of August.
During a briefing, US Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield said, “Where there is conflict, there is hunger,” emphasising the impact of the war in Ukraine on global food security.
Thomas-Greenfield also said Blinken will present the council with a draft communique on the subject. Over 75 countries have signed the communique so far, committing to “take action to end the use of food as a weapon of war and to cease the starvation of civilians as a tactic of warfare.”
In July, Russia withdrew from a crucial grain deal brokered by Türkiye and the United Nations. The agreement had been enabling shipments of grains to bypass a Russian naval blockade in the Black Sea since July 2022.
Ukrainian and US officials, as well as others from the European Union, have accused Russia of “weaponising food” in its war of aggression against Ukraine.
The end of Black Sea grain deal and a looming food crisis
The collapse of the grain deal poses a serious threat to the food security of many lower-income countries already grappling with hunger and economic crises.
Ukraine is one of the world’s top producers of wheat and corn, accounting for approximately 10% of the world’s wheat and 15% of its corn. Many countries in Africa and the Middle East have relied on lower-priced Ukrainian grains for years.
Data released by the UN’s Joint Coordination Centre shows that, under the grain deal, developing countries received 57% of the foodstuffs exported from Ukraine over the past year, while developed countries received 43%. Among the largest recipients were China, Spain, Türkiye and Italy.



The flow of foodstuffs from Ukrainian ports had a positive impact on the global markets. According to the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation, approximately 33 million tonnes of grain were exported from Ukraine thanks to the deal, leading to a roughly 20% decrease in world food prices.
Russia attacking Ukrainian grain facilities
Since leaving the grain deal, Russia has escalated its missile attacks on silos and loading equipment at Ukrainian Black Sea ports, effectively blocking maritime grain shipments.
In response, Ukraine has been forced to reroute its grain exports through its ports along the Danube River, shipping them to Europe through neighboring Romania. However, Russia has further targeted Ukraine’s access to the river, which had served as the primary alternative route for grain exports out of the country.
On Wednesday, Russian drone attacks hit the Ukrainian port city of Izmail on the Danube, damaging port infrastructure.
Along with the Black Sea grain deal came a three-year agreement between the UN and Russia designed to streamline Moscow’s food and fertilizer exports despite Western sanctions on the Rus-

sian Economy. But Russia has long complained that restrictions on payments, logistics and insurance amounted to a barrier on shipments.
Efforts by UN officials to revive the grain deal have so far been unsuccessful.
However, in a phone call with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Moscow was ready to return to the Black Sea grain deal as soon as the West met its obligations regarding Russia’s own grain and fertilizer exports.
Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield confirmed Washington had seen indications that Russia might be interested in talks. “What we have been told is that they are prepared to return to discussions,” she said. “We haven’t seen any evidence of that yet.”
Other factors fuelling global food crisis
The war in Ukraine and the collapse of the Black Sea grain deal are just two among several factors contributing to a long-standing global food crisis.
Alarmed by rising prices and growing demand, other countries producing large amounts of staple food items have restricted their exports.

On July 20, India, the world’s top rice exporter, banned exports of non-basmati white rice to combat rising prices at home.
Extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, drought and floods have also adversely affected harvests.
The return of El Nino, a natural climate phenomenon, has caused floods, drought and storms in numerous regions, disrupting agriculture and fishing sectors, and exacerbating food cost inflation.
Last year’s devastating floods in Pakistan, for instance, washed away nearly half the country’s crops, while record-breaking heatwaves in southern Europe severely damaged summer crops and dairy products.
Last month, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) published its annual report on food security, revealing that the world continues to grapple with the economic repercussions of the coronavirus pandemic and resulting supply-chain disruptions.
According to the FAO’s estimates, about 700 million people faced hunger in 2022, an increase of 122 million compared to 2019 pre-pandemic levels; with Africa, the Caribbean, and Western Asia experiencing the most alarming increases in hunger levels for the year. — DW

Prosecutors seek protective order after Trump’s post

The request came after Trump posted what was perceived to be a threatening statement on his social media platform Truth

WASHINGTON: Prosecutors have requested that the US judge overseeing former President Donald Trump’s case, where he is accused of attempting to overturn his 2020 election loss, issue a protective order concerning evidence in the case.

The request came after Trump posted what was perceived to be a threatening statement on his social media platform Truth.

A protective order
A protective order would restrict the information Trump and his legal team are allowed to share with unauthorised personnel. It aims to protect the classified documents and information prosecutors must share with the defendant.

In other words, it could prohibit



Trump from making such material public during the case.

What did Trump say?
Shortly after facing a judge to plead not guilty over his indictment on charges that he engaged in a conspiracy to overturn the results of the 2020 election, Trump posted in all caps:
“If you go after me, I’m coming after you!”

Prosecutors suspected the post was a threat to anyone involved in the trial against him.

They told the judge they were preparing to provide Trump and his legal team with sensitive and confidential evidence.

“Such a restriction is particularly important in this case because the defendant has previously issued public statements on social media regarding witnesses, judges, attorneys, and others associated with legal matters pending against him,” they said.

On Thursday, Trump appeared to defy a judge who had warned him against discussing the case with any potential witnesses.

What happens next?
The prosecutors warned that such action by Trump could have a “harmful, chilling effect on witnesses or adversely affect the fair administration of justice in this case.”

A Trump spokesperson defended the post, saying it was not meant to address the case but rather Trump’s political rivals, whom Trump blames for the investigations against him.

The judge on Saturday gave Trump’s team until 5 p.m. on Monday to respond. The team tried to extend the deadline by three days to prepare their response but their request was quickly overturned.

The indictment is the third in four months for Trump, who is nonetheless currently considered the frontrunner in a campaign to become the 2024 Republican nominee for president. —DW

Pope Francis wraps up Portugal visit

LISBON: Pope Francis on Sunday told an estimated 1.5 million mostly young crowd at an open-air Mass near Lisbon, Portugal, to follow their dreams and not be afraid of failure. “As young people, you want to change the world and it is good that you want to change the world and work for justice and peace,” Francis said, wrapping up his five-day visit to Portugal to mark World Youth Day.

World Youth Day is an international Catholic jamboree featuring festive, cultural and religious events lasting nearly a week.

“The Church and the world need you, the young, as much as the earth needs rain,” the pontiff said. Sunday’s service at the Parque Tejo park on the outskirts of the Portuguese capital marked the end of Francis’ first foreign trip since undergoing hernia surgery in June. The 86-year-old arrived at the venue to cheers and national flag-waving as temperatures reached close to 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit).

Francis also asked the crowd to let him share “a dream that I carry within me: it is the dream of peace.”

“As you return home, please continue to pray for peace. What is more, you are a sign of peace for the world, showing how different nationalities, languages and histories can unite instead of divide. You are the hope of a different world,” he said. —DW

UN criticises ban on women’s education in Afghanistan

KABUL: The UN Secretary-General’s Special Adviser for the Transforming Education Summit, Leonardo Garnier, has criticised the ban on women’s education in Afghanistan.

Garnier said the UN and the international community’s pressure on Taliban is “critical” owing

to the country’s restrictions on girls’ education.

He noted that currently, Afghanistan is the most extreme case of exclusion of girls.

He said: “I think that Afghanistan is the most extreme case of exclusion of girls. I think the pressure from the international community and from the UN system is critical here.”

Meanwhile, assistant director general for education at UNESCO, Stefania Giannini, said that the UN is pursuing the issue of women’s education in Afghanistan and will not stop its efforts in this regard.

Giannini noted: “The system officially doesn’t allow them to go to school ... UNESCO and the UN assistance UNICEF were in the class working in some 20 provinces this year and reaching out to some 40 thousand learners, 60 percent of them are girls.” —ANI

MAJOR NATURAL DISASTER

4 people killed in Slovenia by torrential rains and flash floods

LJUBLJANA: At least four people died in Slovenia as torrential rains and floods wreaked havoc across the Alpine country, in a major natural disaster.

Three people were found dead on Friday while the fourth person was reported dead by Slovenian media on Saturday.

Among the deceased victims, two were Dutch climbers who died in the mountains near Kranj on Friday, Slovenia’s STA news agency reported, citing police.

A Slovenian woman was also reported among those who died on Friday due to flooding in the town of Kamnik. Authorities also retrieved a man’s body on the outskirts of Ljubljana on Saturday.



At least five Dutch citizens have been missing amid extreme weather conditions, the Dutch Foreign Ministry said.

Thousands of people had to evacuate their homes and many were moved by rescue teams to safer locations through helicopters and boats. The extreme

weather that powered through on Friday started to ease on Saturday and authorities began assessing the extent of damage.

Prime Minister Robert Golob said the floods led to property damage amounting to \$550 million (about €500 million).

“This is the worst natural disaster in Slovenia’s (recent) history, it has affected two-thirds of the country,” he said on Saturday after attending the National Security Council meeting.

The heavy rainfall caused widespread damage leading to the collapse of at least three bridges and mainly impacted roads and the energy infrastructure in Slovenia. —DW

شركة إسمنت عمان Omani Cement Company (S.A.O.G.)

P.O. BOX 98, MUWA, POSTAL CODE 112, SULTANATE OF OMAN
(Factory Al Mafrah West, Bashaer, Tel. # 0968 2437070 ext. 152, Fax # 0968 2443777)

TENDER

The company invites offers for the following tender:

Sl. #	Tender ID	Description	Tender Fee	Deadline for Purchasing of Tenders	Deadline for Submission of Offers
1.	1650000081/23	SUPPLY OF FLY ASH	RO. 52,500	17th August 2023 1700 Hours	22nd August 2023 2355 Hours
2.	1720000046/23	STACK EMISSIONS MONITORING AT AL MISFAH WEST BAUSHER FACTORY SITE	RO. 52,500-	17th August 2023 1700 Hours	22nd August 2023 2355 Hours
3.	1150000017/23	CUSTOMS CLEARANCE AND TRANSPORTATION OF CONSIGNMENTS	RO. 52,500	17th August 2023 1700 Hours	22nd August 2023 2355 Hours
4.	1570000105/23	ENGINEERING, DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF DRAW-OUT TYPE LVACB	RO. 52,500	17th August 2023 1700 Hours	22nd August 2023 2355 Hours
5.	1565000173/23	RE-CONDITIONING OF 2NO. SPARE TITAN CRUSHER ROTORS	RO. 52,500	17th August 2023 1700 Hours	22nd August 2023 2355 Hours

Tender documents can be obtained by paying the below amount online to Company's account detailed below:
Account name: Omani Cement Company SAOG
Bank Name: Bank Muscat SAOG
Account number: 0423 01088 3070 017
Account Type: OMR
SWIFT Code: BMUSOMRX

Copy of deposit transaction of a non-refundable amount of writing on the above as tender fees to be emailed to CFOsecretary@omancement.com & Treasury@omancement.com with the Subject showing "Tender No." and "Tender Description" enabling the Company to provide tender document through email to your company. The above payment is a non-refundable amount.
Contact details: Office number: +968 2443 5663, Mobile number: +968 97932277

The last date for submission of offers is on Tuesday, 2359 hours detailed date on the above table, accompanied by a bid bond issued by any local bank in Oman (equivalent to 1% of the total tender value). The bid bond must be valid for 120 days from the last date of submission of offers and ORIGINAL bid bond must be submitted on the tender box at the reception on our Administration Building, Al Mafrah West factory Site, Bashaer, Muscat, Oman.

Any tenders received beyond the above closing time and date or not being supported by a tender bond will NOT be considered. This publication is part of the tender documents

HITACHI

Enjoy the taste of fresh

10 YEARS HITACHI COMPRESSOR WARRANTY

جي نتكو Genetco

MUSCAT 96742452 SALALAH 97924110, 94048494

Available at Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers

www.genetco.net @GenetcoOman

مستشفى الحياة الدولي AL HAYAT INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

Quality Care Without Compromise

HCG The Specialist in Cancer Care

adding life to years

Special Care from Across the Globe

FREE CONSULTATION

Only on 8th & 9th August

Dr. Intezar Mehdi
Consultant, Pediatric Hematologist, Oncologist and Bone marrow transplant physician
MBBS, DNB (Pediatrics), MRCPCH, FRCPCH (UK)
Director and Head of the Department
Years of experience: 23+ Years

Dr. Pramod S Chinder
Consultant and Orthopedics Oncologist
Fellow in Hand and Reconstructive Microsurgery [NUS, Singapore]
Fellow in Musculoskeletal Oncology – IOR, Italy
Years of experience: 20+ Years

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Dr. Intezar Mehdi:
• Treatment of pediatric cancers
• Leukemia
• Lymphoma
• CNS Tumors
• Neuroblastoma

Dr. Pramod S Chinder:
• Osteosarcoma
• Ewing Sarcoma
• Chondrosarcoma
• Chordoma

Timings
9am to 1pm and 5pm-8pm

MOH no. - 2719/23

2200 4000 9972 8290 7919 1834

SPORTS

Pakistan get govt nod to travel to India for ODI World Cup

Pakistan's foreign ministry said that it still has "deep concerns" about security arrangements

LAHORE: Pakistan will send their cricket team to India for the 2023 men's ODI World Cup in October-November this year, ending months of uncertainty over the country's participation. "Pakistan has consistently maintained that sports should not be mixed with politics," Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. "It has, therefore, decided to send its Cricket Team to India to participate in the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. "Pakistan believes that the state of bilateral relations with India should not stand in the way of fulfilling its international sports-related obligations. "Pakistan's decision shows its constructive and responsible approach vis-à-vis India's intransigent attitude, as the latter had refused to send its Cricket Team to Pakistan for the Asia Cup. While the statement effectively guarantees Pakistan will participate in the World Cup, it also suggested significant areas of divergence remain.



ESPNewsicrinfo understands Pakistan has not yet taken a decision on whether they will agree to participate in the group stage game against India in Ahmedabad, or demand to have it moved elsewhere. The statement, however, does not mention a desire for a change of venue. The statement also signalled a lack of complete confidence in the security arrangements for Pakistan at the World Cup. "Pakistan, however, has deep concerns about the security of its Cricket Team," the statement said further. "We are conveying these concerns to the International Cricket Council and the Indian

authorities. We expect that the full safety and security of the Pakistan Cricket Team will be ensured during its visit to India." ESPNewsicrinfo understands the PCB will reach out to the ICC for security guarantees once there is greater clarity on arrangements. The World Cup schedule has been hit by several delays and tweaks. Pakistan's fixture against India was brought forward by a day to avoid a clash with the Hindu festival of Navaratri. That created a knock-on effect, with Pakistan's earlier game against Sri Lanka on October 12 moved to October 10 to give them enough time to prepare

arrangements that the PCB agreed to. The PCB accepted those date changes to their fixtures. **CAB requests date change of Pakistan game** On Saturday, ESPNewsicrinfo reported that the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) requested the BCCI to have Pakistan's game against England moved from November 12 to November 11, to avoid a clash with another Hindu festival, Kali Puja. The PCB have privately expressed frustration at the potential change of date for the England fixture, and the constant



rejigging of fixtures affecting Pakistan. It is understood there has been no communication between the PCB and the BCCI about the fixture change, and no clarity on when a decision will be reached or how it will be communicated to the PCB. CAB, and cricket fans in Kolkata, wouldn't want to be in a situation where England vs Pakistan game is moved to another city, and it is understood the association officials have also reached out to Mamata Banerjee, the chief minister of West Bengal, to try and intervene. The original schedule of the World Cup had Eden Gardens

marked to host five games: Bangladesh vs Netherlands on October 28, Bangladesh vs Pakistan on October 31, India vs South Africa on November 5, England vs Pakistan on November 12, and the second semi-final on November 16. The schedule of the World Cup was released after a long delay on June 27, just 100 days before the scheduled start of the tournament on October 5 in Ahmedabad. The World Cup is scheduled to begin with reigning champions England taking on New Zealand and end on November 19, but there is still no update on when the tickets will go on sale. - Agencies

GYMNASTICS



Olympic champion Biles makes a winning return

CHICAGO: Four-time Olympic champion Simone Biles has made a triumphant return to gymnastics after a two-year break. The 26-year-old American thrilled the Chicago crowd with a stunning display to win the US Classic on Saturday in her first event since the Tokyo Olympics. Biles announced in 2021 she was taking a break to work on her mental health. "Everyone that was cheering - made posters, all of that in the crowd - it just made my heart melt that they still believe in me," Biles said, according to a BBC Sport. "It means the world because after everything that transpired in Tokyo, I worked on myself a lot. "I still do therapy weekly and it has just been so exciting to come out here and have the confidence I had before. Biles was given a rapturous reception at the Now Arena in Hoffman Estates, Illinois, and won with an all-around score of 59.100 points. "Everything has fallen into place. I feel really good about where I am now mentally and physically," she said. "I still think there are some things to work on in my routine but, for the first meet back, I would say it went pretty well. I'm very shocked and surprised. I'm very happy now that it is out of the way." She began on the uneven bars,

where her score of 14.000 points was the third-best overall before claiming the meet's top score on the balance beam with 14.800. Biles drew cheers during and after every tumbling run on the floor exercise, her flips and landings bringing roars that were rewarded with a top score of 14.900 points. She finished on vault, soaring high to notch another leading mark of 15.400. Leanne Wong, 19, finished second, five points off the pace on 54.100, with 17-year-old Joscelyn Roberson third on 54.050. It was Biles' first competition since pulling out of five of her six finals at the delayed Tokyo Games in 2021. She later explained she had been suffering from the 'twisties' - a mental block where gymnasts can lose their sense of space in the air. Biles has yet to indicate whether she will aim to make next year's Olympics in Paris. She has qualified for the US national championships, which start on 24 August, and is hoping to compete for a world title in Antwerp in October. "I always kind of knew [I'd return] as soon as everything happened in Tokyo," she said. "This time I'm doing it for me. I worked a lot on myself and I believe in myself a little bit more. It's just coming back out here and starting those first steps again." - Agencies

MANCHESTER CITY BEATEN IN A PENALTY SHOOTOUT

Arsenal clinch Community Shield

LONDON: Last season's English Premier League runners-up Arsenal gave themselves a psychological boost to their hopes of beating Manchester City to the 2023-24 Premier League title on Sunday when the Gunners defeated Pep Guardiola's City 4-1 on penalties to clinch the Community Shield at Wembley Stadium. After a largely forgettable 70 minutes in the season curtain-raiser, Cole Palmer looked to have won it for City when the substitute curled home a stunning strike. But Leandro Trossard equalised in the 101st minute when his shot deflected into the back of the net. That took the game to spot-kicks, where substitute Kevin de Bruyne struck the crossbar before Rodri saw his effort saved and then Fabio Vieira converted to secure the silverware for Arsenal. Arsenal led the Premier League for 248 days last season but their challenge fell apart in the closing stages as City overtook them to claim the title as part of a Treble, along with the Champions League and FA Cup. Gunners boss Mikel Arteta admitted in the build-up to this game that the end of last season still hurt, and was clearly desperate to get one over City, who beat his side home and away last season. Arsenal's big summer signings Declan Rice, Kai Havertz and Jurrien Timber were all handed their competitive debuts at Wembley, but it looked like it was going to be a familiar story as Havertz failed to convert two big opportunities in the first half, before Palmer's



stunner put Man City ahead. But Arteta's side showed impressive spirit to battle to the end and got their reward when substitute Trossard struck before keeping their cool to come out on top in the shootout. Arsenal have won the Community Shield for the 17th time, the second-most of any club after Manchester United (21), moving ahead of Liverpool (16). Manchester City are the second team to lose the Community Shield in three consecutive years after Manchester United, who lost four in a row between 1998 and 2001. Later Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale told ITV: "We worked hard on it. We've been working hard for two years. We haven't had luck which was probably needed in previous seasons. We've stuck at it. It's worked today." - Agencies



OPEN WATER SWIMMING WORLD CUP

Paris 2024 test event cancelled over pollution in Seine

PARIS: World Aquatics cancelled a test event on Sunday for the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics after water quality in the River Seine was ruled to be "below acceptable standards." The fourth meet of the Open Water Swimming World Cup was due to take place on August 5-6. The Seine is scheduled to host marathon swimming, triathlon and Para-triathlon events at the Olympics and Paralympics. World Aquatics said the health

of athletes was its "top priority." "Following recent above-average rainfall in Paris, the water quality in the Seine has remained below acceptable standards for safeguarding swimmers' health," read a statement, BBC Sport reported. "World Aquatics understands that further infrastructure projects will be completed to significantly improve water quality in the Seine in the lead-up to next year's Olympic Games. "Based on this weekend, it is

clear that further work is needed with Paris 2024 and local authorities to ensure robust contingency plans are in place for next year." Swimming is set to be one of the major legacies of the Games thanks to a US\$ 1.5bn regeneration project in Paris, with three open-air swimming areas accessible from the quayside by 2025. World Triathlon said it is "confident" the swimming legs of its Paris 2024 test event would go ahead in the Seine from August

17-20. It said: "In the unlikely event that water quality does not meet the requirements of World Triathlon and public health authorities, a contingency plan is in place which would see the race(s) shifted to a duathlon format." This week UK Health Security Agency North East began an investigation after reports that at least 57 people fell ill following the World Triathlon Championship Series in Sunderland. - Agencies

MEMORY CHIP MARKET

Samsung Electronics Co. retained its top spot in the global memory chip market in the first quarter despite lacklustre earnings amid the chip glut, a report showed Sunday.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,759.65 points, down by 0.5 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.08 per cent at 470.45 points. Al Suwadi Power, up 3.85 per cent, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 6.63 per cent, was the top loser.

Value of fish production in Oman reaches OMR196mn

Initial statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that the amount of fish landed through commercial fishing stood at 20,724 tonnes



MUSCAT: Artisanal fishing constituted 93.9 per cent of fish landed in the Sultanate of Oman at the end of June 2023 to stand at 371,647 tonnes, going up by 5 per cent compared to the same period in 2022, which stood at 353,950 tonnes. The value of landed fish stood at OMR195.884 million. Initial statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that the amount of fish landed through commercial fishing stood at 20,724 tonnes. Meanwhile, fish landed through coastal fishing reached

3,059 tonnes. The highest amount of fish landed through artisanal fishing was recorded in the Governorate of Al Wusta (144,707 tonnes), followed by the Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah with 110,593 tonnes. The amount of landed fish in other governorates came as follows: 42,128 tonnes in Dhofar, 37,553 tonnes in North Al Batinah and South Al Batinah, 21,938 in Musandam and 14,727 tonnes in Muscat. -ONA



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ADB forecasts continued pandemic recovery for Pacific economies in 2023, 2024

MANILA: Economies in the Pacific are projected to grow collectively by 3.3% in 2023 and 2.8% in 2024 as the subregion continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the latest issue of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Pacific Economic Monitor (PEM). "The lifting of the last pandemic mobility restrictions has enabled economic activity, such as tourism and implementation of public infrastructure projects, to resume in earnest," said ADB Director General for the Pacific Leah Gutierrez. "The outlook for the Pacific is subject to downside risks, such as sensitivity to international commodity prices and longstanding vulnerability to disasters, but ADB continues to work closely with government counterparts across the Pacific to help mitigate these risks, restore development gains, and support inclusive, sustainable growth in the subregion."

Other short-term downside risks to the Pacific's outlook include uncertainties around the resumption of stalled public investment projects and the uneven recovery of the crucial tourism sector, exacerbated by possible economic scarring from the pandemic. The latest PEM explores the development impact of the pandemic and challenges to recovery and fiscal sustainability. Topical policy briefs in the PEM highlight key findings from two ADB-supported reports, Women's Economic Empowerment in the Pacific Region and Finding Balance 2023: Benchmarking Performance and Building Climate Resilience in Pacific State-Owned Enterprises, while presenting efforts in Solomon Islands to meet local demand for wood products as log exports slowed. The PEM is ADB's biannual review of economic developments and policy issues in ADB's 14 developing member countries in the Pacific. -WAM

FINANCIAL RESULT

Adnoc Distribution delivers strong operating performance, growth in underlying profitability

ABU DHABI: Adnoc Distribution announced its first half 2023 results, reporting a 9% year-on-year increase in underlying EBITDA to AED1.57 billion, and a 2% year-on-year increase in net profit excluding inventory movements to AED1.03 billion, driven by higher fuel volumes and company-wide efficiency improvement initiatives. The company continued to maintain a strong balance sheet, with a net debt to EBITDA ratio of 1.13x at the end of the first half of the year. Its financial position remained strong with liquidity of AED 4.7 billion at the end of the period. Adnoc Distribution experienced a notable year-on-year growth in total fuel volumes in the UAE and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, witnessing a 9% increase in H1 2023 compared to H1 2022. Retail fuel volumes, which account for about 70% of the total volumes, increased by 8% year-on-year. The Company's corporate fuel vol-



umes recorded sustained growth, achieving a substantial 12% year-on-year increase, underpinned by the management's efforts to strengthen the commercial business portfolio. Eng. Bader Saeed Al Lamki, CEO of Adnoc Distribution, said: "ADNOC Distribution has Adnoc robust results in the first half of the year, driven by strong operating performance and efficiency improvement initiatives across

the Company. As a future-focused business, we remain on track to meet targets for the year in OPEX savings and network expansion locally and internationally, and expect this growth momentum to continue into the second half of the year. Supported by our firm belief in our smart growth strategy while embarking on our transformational plans that focus on innovation and upgrading the customer experience, we remain

committed to achieving sustainable growth and rewarding returns for shareholders in the long term." "We continue to actively support and contribute to the UAE's strategic vision by reducing carbon emissions from our operations and supporting sustainable mobility objectives. This approach aligns with our future-proofing strategy and capitalises on the opportunities offered by the energy transition." The company's non-fuel retail business continued to demonstrate a consistent and solid performance, with gross profit increasing by more than 12% year-on-year in the first half of the year, primarily driven by a 14% increase in transactions and achieving a record-high conversion rate in convenience stores. Key drivers of this growth were management initiatives to boost food and beverage sales, customer-centric offerings in line with the company's non-fuel strategy, and innovative products and services. -WAM

INTERVENTION BUYING

Against the grain: Polish farmers hurt by Ukrainian imports

WARSAW: "We still see some stupid boasting going on television," says Polish farmer Andrzej Waszczuk, a reference to ruling Law and Justice (PiS) leader, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, who has promised that the purchase price of wheat will be 1,300 zlotys (€280, \$300) per ton, that imports from Ukraine will be suspended and that there will be intervention buying. "But the devil is in the details, and nobody says anything about the details. We won't fall for such games. We are waiting for specific solutions that will be felt by us. As long as there are no definite tangible and noticeable signs of improvement on the market, we will protest," Waszczuk says. Farmers in Poland are anxious that Ukrainian grain earmarked for the Middle East and Africa may leak into the domestic market and lower prices in Poland's poorest region once the ban is lifted in September. "The situation in which Ukrainian grain flows into Poland causes significant challenges for our farmers who have to compete with agricultural products imported from abroad," Wiktor Szmulewicz, president of the National Council of Agricultural Chambers, says.



Competing with agricultural products, which are produced according to different standards and costs than those applicable in the European Union, creates an uneven playing field for Polish farmers, Szmulewicz adds. The owner of a purchase point near Hrubieszow, who wanted to stay anonymous, says he had to pay farmers as much as 1,600 zlotys per ton last year and soon after the harvest, grain prices began to

fall rapidly, by as much as 50%. It was then that the protests began. Wieslaw Gryn, another Polish farmer, set up the Deceived Village Association in response and says protests will restart after the harvest. Jan Bieniasz, managing director of a farmers' cooperative in the village of Laka, says about 80% of the grain coming out of Ukraine in 2022 was via Poland — and much was "leaking into the local markets, bringing down prices." Ukrainian

grain at the border was 20% cheaper than Polish grain, he adds. The Polish People's Party (PSL) says about one-third of Ukrainian grain leaks into Poland, though this is disputed. Some claim these are rumours stoked as part of Russia's hybrid war to drive a wedge between Poles and Ukrainians. The farmers' union AgroUnia says, for example, that "Ukrainian oligarchs and international in-

vestment funds that have invested huge amounts of money in food production in Ukraine will benefit from the current situation." Wirtualna Polska, a news outlet, investigated which Polish companies bought cheaper Ukrainian grain in 2022 and then sold it on the Polish market at a higher price. Their findings showed that several of the largest buyers allegedly had links with high profile PiS politicians. The government has promised to publish its own list of companies that bought cheaper Ukrainian grain but still hasn't done so. **Warsaw talks tough** With parliamentary elections to be held later this year and growing resentment about the costs of Poland's role in the Ukraine war effort being exploited by the far-right Confederation alliance — now boasting 12-13% in the polls — the PiS-led government faces a dilemma. Poland has said it will not resume grain imports from Ukraine after September 15, when the EU-wide ban is lifted. Four other EU countries — Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Hungary — have also asked the

EU to extend the ban on domestic sales of Ukrainian grain products until the end of the year but have said they are open to the continued transit of Ukrainian grain through their territories. **Conflict with Kyiv** Ukraine wants the EU to keep open the grain corridors that enable it to export its grain overland through Poland and other Eastern EU member states while the Black Sea route is closed. France, Germany and Spain back Ukraine's stance, saying trade restrictions undermine the integrity of the bloc's internal market — and its efforts to support Ukraine. German Agriculture Minister Cem Özdemir said the only player benefiting from Poland's actions was Russia as it looks to squeeze Ukraine out of the global grain market. Extending the ban now could undermine Ukrainian exports and boost Russian grain exports, in particular at a time when Russia is offering free grain to some African countries. This year's grain harvest in Ukraine had been projected to fall only about 10% from last year to about 60 million tonnes. -ow

MARKET

MSX index ends lower



Al Suwadi Power, up 3.85 per cent, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 6.63 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,759.65 points, down by 0.5 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.08 per cent at 470.45 points. Al Suwadi Power, up 3.85 per cent, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 6.63 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Abraj Energy Services were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 273 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR1.94 million, with more than 7.11 million shares changing hands. Out of 30 traded securities, 5 advanced, 11 declined, and 14 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR495,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR481,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR15,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at

7,813.33 points, down 0.69 per cent. Prices of United Finance, Ominvest were up by 1.67 per cent, 0.53 per cent respectively. Prices of Ahli Bank, Dhofar Insurance, Al Madina Takaful, and National Bank Oman were up by 6.63 per cent, 2.86 per cent, 1.16 per cent, and 0.68 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,125.94 points, down 0.38 per cent. There were no gainers from the sector. Prices of Oman Flour Mills, and Raysut Cement were up by 3.39 per cent, 0.59 per cent respectively. Services Index was down by 0.03 per cent before closing at 1,669.20 points. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, Ooredoo, Shell Oman Marketing were up by 3.85 per cent, 0.27 per cent, 0.12 per cent respectively. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Muscat Desalination, and National Gas were up by 2.35 per cent, 1.10 per cent, and 1.05 per cent respectively. — United Securities

INDICES						
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,782.81	4,758.00	4,759.65	4,783.36	-23.70	-0.50
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,871.84	7,810.69	7,813.33	7,867.27	-53.94	-0.69
Industry Index	6,146.11	6,122.61	6,125.94	6,149.44	-23.50	-0.38
Services Index	1,669.64	1,665.72	1,669.20	1,669.72	-0.52	-0.03
MSX Shariah Index	470.58	469.53	470.45	470.84	-0.38	-0.08
MSX TR INDEX	6,294.08	6,261.43	6,263.60	6,294.80	-31.20	-0.50
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,589.62	8,522.90	8,525.78	8,584.64	-58.86	-0.69
SERVICES TR IDX	1,843.07	1,838.74	1,842.59	1,843.16	-0.57	-0.03
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,565.57	6,540.47	6,544.03	6,569.13	-25.10	-0.38
Trading Summary						
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal
7,111,427	1,939,302	273	23,880,966,626	5	11	14
						Sec. Traded
						30

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (BO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BR	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
	OM0000002374 UNITED FINANCE	55,405	3,378	5	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.001	1.667	0.061	0.059	0.061	0.100	21,723,765
	OM0000001533 OMINVEST	196,000	74,078	9	0.377	0.379	0.377	0.379	0.377	0.002	0.531	0.379	0.379	0.385	0.100	253,310,496
	OM0000003968 OOREDOO	866,738	321,880	33	0.370	0.373	0.370	0.373	0.372	0.001	0.269	0.373	0.368	0.373	0.100	242,802,198
	OM0000001087 OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	10,000	2,600	2	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.000	0.000	0.260	0.260	0.275	0.100	26,000,000
	OM0000002440 AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	250	18	1	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.069	0.073	0.100	6,570,000
	OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	736,487	206,071	41	0.279	0.280	0.279	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.278	0.280	0.100	2,101,791,177
	OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	435,778	435,342	18	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.000	0.000	0.999	0.997	0.999	0.100	749,250,000
	OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SERVICES	3,000	1,164	1	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.000	0.000	0.388	0.378	0.388	0.100	91,727,080
	OM0000003398 SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	335,000	35,825	10	0.106	0.107	0.106	0.107	0.107	0.000	0.000	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.100	491,136,665
	OM0000001483 NATIONAL BANK OMAN	40,357	11,869	3	0.296	0.296	0.294	0.294	0.296	-0.002	-0.676	0.294	0.294	0.296	0.100	478,028,228
	OM0000004768 MADINA TAKAFUL	5,500	468	1	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.086	-0.001	-1.163	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.100	14,875,000
	OM0000004248 SMN POWER HOLDING	250,798	20,830	16	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.083	0.085	-0.002	-2.353	0.083	0.082	0.083	0.100	16,569,755
Total	12	2,935,313	1,113,522	140												
Parallel Market																
	OM0000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	129,577	3,442	3	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.001	3.846	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.100	19,288,971
	OM0000002275 SHELL OMAN MARKETING	500	431	1	0.861	0.861	0.861	0.861	0.860	0.001	0.116	0.861	0.862	0.946	0.100	81,795,000
	OM0000001590 MUSCAT FINANCE	150,000	8,250	11	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.055	0.057	0.100	16,893,048
	OM0000001962 AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	19,820	844	2	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.041	0.042	0.100	3,655,000
	OM0000003521 GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	109,223	17,644	11	0.161	0.162	0.161	0.162	0.162	0.000	0.000	0.162	0.160	0.178	0.100	32,883,804
	OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	1,468,702	140,707	44	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.095	0.105	0.100	214,747,491
	OM0000005963 PHOENIX POWER	17,890	1,147	4	0.064	0.065	0.064	0.065	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.065	0.062	0.070	0.100	95,068,095
	OM0000008868 THE PEARL REIF	1,000	119	1	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.000	0.000	0.119	0.118	0.124	0.100	50,457,655
	OM0000008934 ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	2,063,925	630,055	41	0.305	0.306	0.305	0.306	0.306	0.000	0.000	0.306	0.308	0.306	0.100	235,681,200
	OM0000001418 RAYSUT CEMENT	18,380	3,106	3	0.169	0.169	0.169	0.169	0.170	-0.001	-0.588	0.169	0.169	0.169	0.100	33,800,000
	OM0000001160 NATIONAL GAS	10,000	940	2	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.095	-0.001	-1.053	0.094	0.090	0.095	0.100	7,990,000
	OM0000007084 MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	1,753	158	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.091	-0.001	-1.099	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	13,999,536
	OM0000008447 OMAN REIT FUND	10,000	870	2	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.088	-0.001	-1.136	0.087	0.087	0.088	0.100	40,993,216
	OM0000001095 DHOFAR INSURANCE	67,061	13,680	1	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.210	-0.006	-2.857	0.204	0.204	0.210	0.100	22,269,633
	OM0000001400 OMAN FLOUR MILLS	200	114	1	0.570	0.570	0.570	0.570	0.590	-0.020	-3.390	0.570	0.532	0.570	0.100	89,775,000
	OM0000004925 ALBATINAH POWER	100,000	2,700	1	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.028	-0.001	-3.571	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.100	18,221,961
	OM0000002200 AHLI BANK	8,450	1,546	3	0.183	0.183	0.183	0.183	0.196	-0.013	-6.633	0.183	0.183	0.183	0.100	356,787,316
Total	17	4,176,081	825,754	132												

US FEDERAL RESERVE

More interest rate hike 'likely be needed' to lower inflation: Fed governor Bowman

WASHINGTON: US Federal Reserve Governor Michelle W Bowman has said an additional interest rate increase will likely be needed to get inflation on a path down to its 2 per cent target. The US central bank in its July meeting raised its benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points, the highest in the past 22 years at 5.25-5.5 per cent. "Given the strong economic data and still elevated inflation, I supported the FOMC's decision in July to further increase the target range for the federal funds rate," said Bowman in her remarks on Saturday at the 2023 CEO and Senior Management Summit and Annual Meeting, sponsored by the Kansas Bankers Association, Colorado Springs, Colorado. "I also expect that additional rate increases will likely be needed to get inflation on a path down to the FOMC's 2 per cent target." The latest consumer price index (CPI), which measures the prices



of a basket of goods and services, increased by 3 per cent in June, down from a four-decade high of 9.1 per cent the same month last year. The recent lower inflation reading was positive, Bowman noted, adding she will be looking for consistent evidence that inflation is on a meaningful path down toward its 2 per cent goal. Barring the pause in June, the US central bank has hiked the interest rate for the eleventh consecutive time which was necessitated in the fight against soaring inflation. Raising interest rates is a mon-

etary policy instrument that typically helps suppress demand in the economy, thereby helping the inflation rate decline. "It's important to reiterate that monetary policy is not on a preset course. My colleagues and I will make our decisions based on the incoming data and its implications for the economic outlook. We should remain willing to raise the federal funds rate at a future meeting if the incoming data indicate that progress on inflation has stalled," the Fed governor further said. -ANI

REPORT

Samsung Electronics keeps top spot in first quarter memory chip market

SEOUL: Samsung Electronics Co. retained its top spot in the global memory chip market in the first quarter despite lacklustre earnings amid the chip glut, a report showed Sunday. SK hynix Inc., on the other hand, was pushed back to third place from No. 2 compared with a year earlier, due largely to the output cut that came before Samsung, according to the market tracker Omdia. Samsung Electronics kept the largest share of 42.8 per cent in the DRAM market, unchanged from the previous quarter, according to South Korean News Agency (Yonhap). Samsung's DRAM revenue amounted to US\$4.01 billion in the January-March period, a 61.2 per cent fall from the previous year's \$10.35 billion, Omdia said. Compared with three months earlier, the revenue sank 25.2 per cent. The DRAM market share of SK hynix stood at 24.7 per cent in the first quarter, down 2.3 percentage points from the previous quarter. SK hynix was dragged down by one spot to third place, and Micron Technology Inc. took over the second spot with 27.2 per cent. SK hynix, which makes most of its profit from selling memory chips, reported an operating loss of \$2.5 billion for the three months, swinging to the red from a year earlier. "SK hynix had preemptively



begun to reduce production as DRAM prices fell sharply in the first quarter, which led to a decrease in shipments and a temporary decline in the market share," an industry source said. Samsung Electronics also maintained the top place in the NAND flash market, with the percentage inching up 0.4 percentage points to 34.3 per cent despite the sharp fall in the quarterly revenue in the segment. Its NAND flash revenue more than halved to \$2.99 billion in the first quarter, compared with \$6.33 billion from a year earlier. SK hynix placed fourth with 16.8 per cent in the first-quarter NAND flash market, down from the third spot from three months earlier. Analysts are increasingly betting on the theory that the two tech giants are bottoming out, citing the second-quarter losses that have narrowed down from the previous quarter.

Samsung's Device Solutions unit in charge of semiconductors reported 4.36 trillion won (\$3.33 billion) in operating loss for the April-June period, narrowing from 4.58 trillion won from the previous quarter. SK hynix posted 2.88 trillion won in the second-quarter operating loss, compared with the operating loss of 3.4 trillion won in the first quarter. Samsung and SK hynix said in their recent earnings calls that they plan to focus on advanced high-bandwidth memory (HBM) and double data rate 5 (DDR5) memory chips that are in higher demand. The DDR5 is the next generation of PC main memory with higher speed and bigger memory. An HBM chip is suited for high-performance computing systems, such as artificial intelligence-driven data analytics and state-of-the-art graphics systems. -BNA

SAUDI ARABIA

Capital Market Institutions hit record in 2022

RIYADH: The Deputy of Market Institutions at the Capital Market Authority (CMA), Bander Sulaiman Alayed, announced that capital market institutions authorised by the CMA achieved a net income of SAR 6.1 billion, marking a historic increase of 29.8% by the end of 2022 compared to SAR 4.7 billion in 2021. This significant leap was accomplished while the CMA continued to implement its comprehensive development plan in close collaboration with the capital market system. Alayed highlighted that the CMA's role in regulating market institutions is to establish rules and guidelines that ensure investor protection and hold institutions accountable for their responsibilities. This exemplifies the crucial and effective role played by capital market institutions in the Saudi financial sector, which is of great importance within the framework of the Kingdom's Vision 2030. Furthermore, Alayed noted that retained profits in capital market institutions reached a record high of SAR 60.34 billion, a remarkable increase of 39.17% by the end of 2022 compared to SAR 43.36 billion in 2021. The profits of capital market institutions experienced a significant surge due to a 26% increase in revenues in 2022, exceeding SAR 12 billion, the highest recorded in the history of these institutions. Asset management revenues constituted the largest portion at 33.64% of aggregate revenues, followed by dealing activity at 19.67%, investment at 16.45%, and investment banking at 9.71%. The remaining ratios were distributed among other revenue sources, advice, and custody. Alayed further revealed that the number of portfolios managed by capital market institutions reached a record high of 37,021 portfolios by the end of 2022, reflecting a remarkable increase of approximately 1204% compared to the end of 2021 when there were 2,839 portfolios. This exceptional record is attributed to the growth in portfolios of a recently launched capital market institution. Regarding asset distribution in Discretionary Portfolio Management (DPM), local shares accounted for the largest share at 45.61% with a value of SAR 120.97 billion by the end of 2022, followed by the investment funds category at 23.48%. International shares, debt instruments, and other investment categories constituted 30.91% of the assets managed. -SPA

Free home delivery & timely service

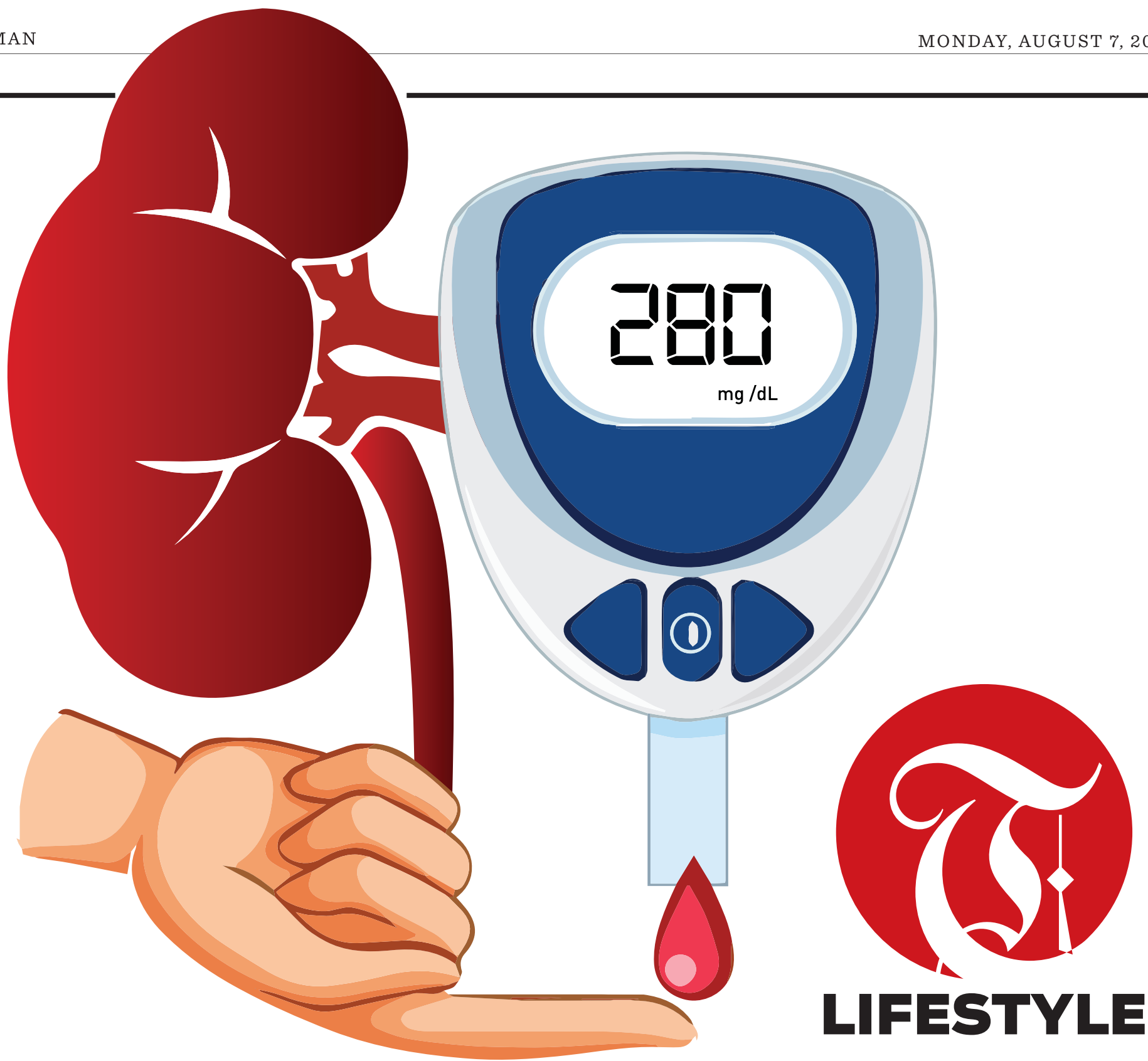
oman OASIS
BALANCED DRINKING WATER

Oasis Water Co. SAOC,
PO Box 87, Rusayl 124,
Sultanate of Oman.
www.omanoasis.com

CALL TOLL-FREE
800 71 222
or GSM: 9275 5522

Winner of
His Majesty's Cup Award
in 2012 & 2013
for Best Five Factories

C.R. No. 1026642



A new study published in *Frontiers in Nutrition* suggests that increased consumption of added sugars should be added to the list of risk factors for kidney stones for the first time

Study reveals how consuming added sugars increase risk of kidney stones

Kidney stones impact 7 per cent to 15 percent of the population in North America, 5 percent to 9 percent of the population in Europe, and 1 percent to 5 percent of the population in Asia. Common symptoms include severe pain, nausea, vomiting, fever, chills, and bloody urine.

However, kidney stones can cause infections, swelling of the kidneys (hydronephrosis), renal insufficiency, and end-stage renal disease in addition to lowering quality of life. Obesity, chronic diarrhoea, dehydration, and inflammatory bowel disease, diabetes, or gout are all known risk factors for kidney stones.

A new study published in *Frontiers in Nutrition* suggests that increased consumption of added sugars should be added to the list of risk factors for kidney stones for the first time. Added sugars can be found in a variety of processed foods, but they are particularly prevalent in sugar-sweetened sodas, fruit drinks, candies, ice cream, cakes, and cookies.

“Ours is the first study to report an association between added sugar consumption and kidney stones,” said lead author Dr Shan Yin, a researcher at the Affiliated Hospital of North Sichuan Medical

College, Nanchong, China. “It suggests that limiting added sugar intake may help to prevent the formation of kidney stones.”

Yin et al. analyzed epidemiological data on 28,303 adult women and men, collected between 2007 to 2018 within the US National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). Participants self-reported if they had a history of kidney stones. Each participant’s daily intake of added sugars was estimated from their recall of their most recent consumption of food and drinks, given twice: once in a face-to-face interview, and once in a telephone interview between three and 10 days later. For example, participants were asked if they had eaten syrups, honey, dextrose, fructose, or pure sugar during the past 24 hours.

Each participant also received a healthy eating index score (HEI-2015), which summarizes their diet in terms of the adequacy of beneficial diet components such as fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, and moderation of potentially harmful foods, for example, refined grains, sodium, and saturated fats.

The researchers adjusted the odds of developing kidney stones per year during the trial for a range of explanatory factors. These in-

cluded gender, age, race or ethnicity, relative income, BMI, HEI-2015 score, smoking status, and whether the participants had a history of diabetes.

At the start of the study, participants with a higher intake of added sugar tended to have a higher current prevalence of kidney stones, a lower HEI score, and a lower education level. The overall mean intake of added sugars was 272.1 calories per day, which corresponds to 13.2% of the total daily energy intake.

The researchers showed that after adjusting for these factors, the percentage of energy intake from added sugars was positively and consistently correlated with kidney stones. For example, participants whose intake of added sugars was among the 25% highest in the population had 39% greater odds of developing kidney stones over the course of the study.

Similarly, participants who derived more than 25 per cent of their total energy from added sugars had 88 per cent greater odds than those who derived less than 5 percent of their total energy from added sugars.

The results also indicated that participants from ‘Other’ ethnicities – for example, Native American or Asian people – had higher

odds of developing kidney stones when exposed to greater-than-average amounts of added sugars than Mexican American, other Hispanic, non-Hispanic White, and non-Hispanic Black people. People with a greater Poverty-Income Ratio (PIR; ie, the ratio between their income and the federal poverty level) had greater odds of developing kidney stones when exposed to more added sugars than people at or slightly above the poverty level.

The mechanisms of the relation between consuming more added sugars and a greater risk of developing kidney stones is not yet known. Because this was an uncontrolled observational trial, it can’t yet be ruled out that unknown confounding factors might drive this association.

“Further studies are needed to explore the association between added sugar and various diseases or pathological conditions in detail,” cautioned Yin. “For example, what types of kidney stones are most associated with added sugar intake? How much should we reduce our consumption of added sugars to lower the risk of kidney stone formation? Nevertheless, our findings already offer valuable insights for decision-makers.

—ANI

“Further studies are needed to explore the association between added sugar and various diseases or pathological conditions in detail,” cautioned Dr Shan Yin, a researcher at the Affiliated Hospital of North Sichuan Medical College, Nanchong, China.

SPORTS

Sweden knock out holders USA



On a night of incredible drama in Melbourne, USA were ousted in a shootout

MELBOURNE: Reigning champions the USA are out of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup after being beaten 5-4 by Sweden

on penalties on Sunday. USA, who won the last two tournaments, dominated the 120 minutes but were denied by an inspired goalkeeping performance from Sweden goalkeeper Zecira Musovic. In the shootout Lina Hurtig scored the deciding penalty as USA keeper Alyssa Naeher narrowly failed to stop the ball crossing the line. Sweden go through to face Japan in the quarter-finals. They were indebted to Musovic, who made 11 saves in a game where the USA looked more like the team which won the World Cup in 2015 and 2019 than the one

which snuck through the group stage, BBC Sport reported. But they could not score and in the shootout Megan Rapinoe, Sophia Smith and Kelley O'Hara all missed - Rapinoe with what is her final action at a World Cup, as she has announced she will retire at the end of the year. The final moment of drama came as Naeher could only push Hurtig's spot-kick up and over herself before pushing it away. After checking with the video assistant, referee Stephanie Frappart awarded the goal - and sparked wild Sweden celebrations.

It condemns the USA to their worst performance at a Women's World Cup. They had never previously failed to make it to the semi-finals. USA manager Vlatko Andonovski had to make changes - especially as key midfielder Rose Lavelle was suspended for this game - and moved Julie Ertz from centre-back into midfield as the US switched from 4-3-3 to 4-2-3-1. It worked a treat in the first half as they dominated play and were only denied the lead by Musovic and the crossbar. Trinity Rodman twice stung the gloves of Musovic before Lindsey

Horan came even closer by rattling the woodwork with a header from a corner. USA continued to make chances after the break, Horan and Alex Morgan denied by superb Musovic saves and Emily Sonnett shooting over from the edge of the area. But they needed a goal to make their dominance count and, as they toiled for it, the crowd which had followed them to Melbourne were becoming more nervous as the game rolled on into extra time. They continued to be denied by Musovic in the extra period as she saved from Morgan, Lynn

Williams and Sophia Smith, with Andonovski sending on Rapinoe shortly before the 100th minute. The 38-year-old has long been the team's defining symbol and inspiration - but here she blazed the fourth USA penalty wildly over the bar. Smith put well wide when the USA would have advanced if she scored, before O'Hara struck the post. The dreams of the USA being the first nation to win three successive World Cups is over. Their reign as undisputed queens of the global women's game is also finished. - Agencies

RUGBY UNION

Wales too good for England; Scotland rally to beat France

CARDIFF: Wales overwhelmed disappointing England to give themselves a major pre-World Cup lift with a 20-9 win at the Principality Stadium in the Rugby Union Nations Series on Saturday. And in another Nations' Series game, which is serving as a World Cup preparation, hosts Scotland shocked France 25-21 at Edinburgh on Saturday. In Cardiff, Gareth Davies and George North scored tries, with Leigh Halfpenny kicking 10 points on his 100th Wales appearance. Victory was the perfect start for new captain Jac Morgan, while Marcus Smith kicked three penalties for England. Wales' first-half display will be remembered for a dogged defensive effort with centre North proving crucial in denying England two tries and Aaron Wainwright shining at number eight. England head coach Steve Borthwick will be concerned with England's inability to profit on their first-half dominance and the manner in which they allowed a second-half revival from the hosts as the visitors conceded 22 turnovers. A turbulent 12 months had seen Wales lose nine out of 12 games as coach Warren Gatland returned for a second stint in place of Wayne Pivac. A fifth-place finish in the Six Nations was followed by the loss of the experienced Alun Wyn Jones, Justin Tipuric, Rhys Webb and Ken Owens and off-the-field controversy with players threatening to strike over contractual injuries. Gatland has spoken about changing the negative narrative surrounding Welsh rugby and he will hope this win starts that process. Wales honoured legend Clive Rowlands, who died at the age of 85 last Sunday, with a minute's applause at the start of the game. He was the only man to coach, captain and manage Wales and made his debut against England in 1963. It is early days but this performance provided some optimism before the return warm-up fixture at Twickenham next Saturday.



through Baptiste Couilloud, Louis Bielle-Biarrey and Cameron Woki to race into a 21-3 lead at the break. The Scots roared back with tries from Darcy Graham and Pierre Schoeman - either side of Fagereson's dismissal - and substitute Dave Cherry. Captain Finn Russell kicked 10 points as the hosts held on for a superb win. The sides meet again in St Etienne next Saturday in the third of Scotland's four World Cup warm-up matches. After victory over Italy last weekend with a shadow side, Gregor Townsend elected to go as strong as possible for the visit of the World Cup hosts, with captain Jamie Ritchie the only notable absentee through injury. On his 70th cap Russell was leading Scotland for the first time and got his side on the board with an early penalty. France were without their superstar scrum-half Antoine Dupont, but his stand-in Couilloud finished off a stunning counter-attack from deep inside French

territory that sliced open the Scotland defence for the game's opening try. Even without a host of their star names, Les Bleus still carried threats all over the pitch. At 14-3 it was already looking like an uphill task for the home side and at the half-hour mark came the worrying sight of Ben White limping off with an injury. The visitors stretched their lead when Woki powered over from close range and while a warm-up is by its nature not the highest of stakes, there was a danger the Scots were heading for the psychological blow of a heavy home defeat. They needed something quickly to stem the tide and to the surprise of nobody it came from their little try machine on the wing, Graham. A stunning fightback saw the hosts staring a heavy defeat in the face to 22 unanswered points that secured their victory, which should be a huge confidence boost to the Scots going into their tough World Cup pool. - Agencies

FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Netherlands in quarter-finals

SYDNEY: Netherlands manager Andries Jonker says his team have come to the FIFA Women's World Cup "with the conviction that we can beat everybody" after securing a quarter-final spot against Spain on Sunday. The Netherlands were forced to endure several anxious moments before defeating South Africa 2-0 and booking a place in the last eight, BBC Sport reported. They will have to face Spain without experienced midfielder Danielle van de Donk, who picked up a second yellow card of the tournament and is suspended. Jill Roord, Manchester City's new club record signing, nodded the Netherlands ahead but South Africa went close to equalising several times against the 2019 runners-up. Banyana Banyana captain Thembi Kgatlang was once again a real handful and forced four fine saves from Daphne van Domselaar, Aston Villa's new goalkeeper, in front of a crowd of 40,233 at Sydney Football Stadium. Lineth Beerensteyn doubled the lead after a mistake by South Africa keeper Kaylin Swart in the second half. The Netherlands are two wins from reaching back-to-back finals after another lightning start to a game at this tournament. Roord's early header, after Lieke Martens had been denied by a clearance off the line, was the sixth time they have scored inside 20 minutes.



NEW SIGNING

Striker Hojlund completes move to Manchester United

MANCHESTER: Denmark striker Rasmus Hojlund has joined the English club Manchester United till June 2028, with an option of a further year with the iconic club. The club issued a statement to make the announcement of Rasmus's signing, a 20-year-old striker who was previously with the club Atalanta in Italy. "Rasmus Hojlund has joined Manchester United on a contract running until June 2028, with the option of a further year, subject to international clearance," said a statement from the club. At just 20 years of age, he has 27



goals in 87 club appearances for teams including Atalanta, Sturm Graz and Copenhagen. Rasmus made his internation-

al-level debut for Denmark last year and has six goals so far for his country in six matches. He said: "It is no secret that I have been a fan of this great club since I was a small boy, and I dreamed of walking out at Old Trafford as a Manchester United player." "I am incredibly excited by this opportunity to turn that dream into a reality, and I am determined to repay the faith that the club has shown in me. It is still early in my career, but I know that I am ready to make this step up and play with this group of world-class players." - ANT

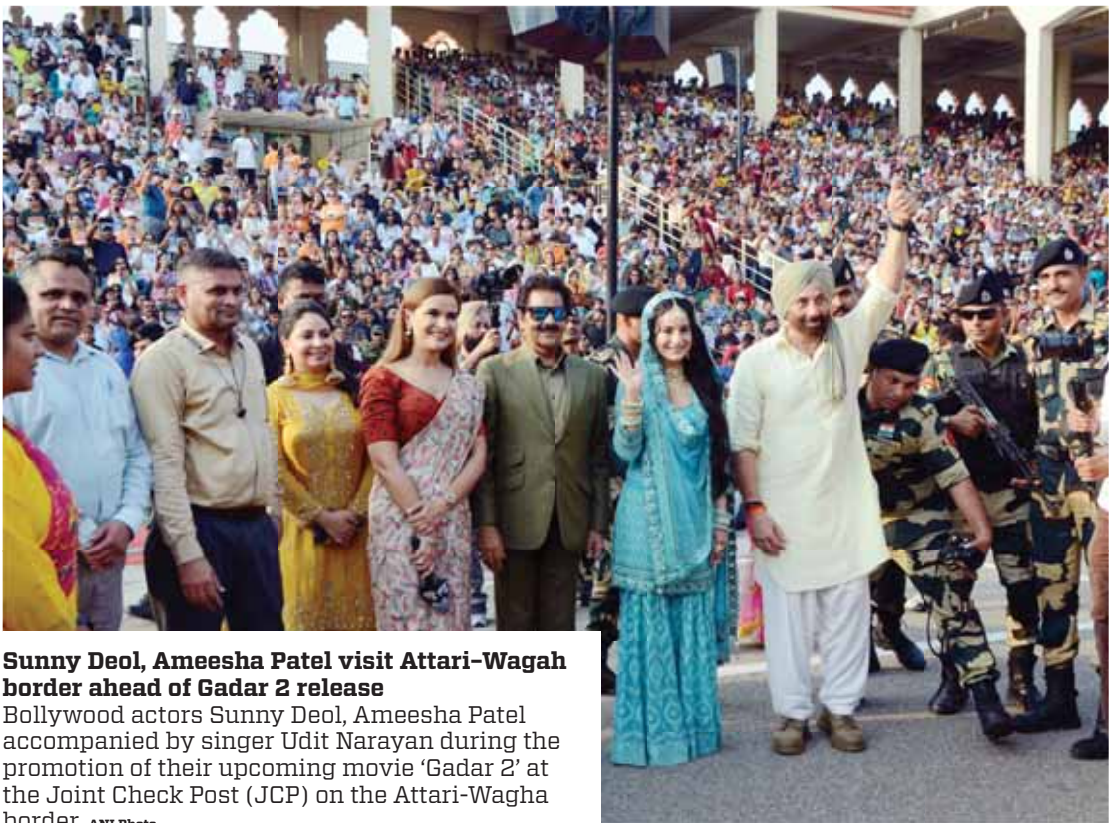
IN-PICTURES



People enjoy at site of Main Festival in Germany
People enjoy themselves at the site of Main Festival in Frankfurt, Germany. The Main Festival is one of Frankfurt's oldest and most traditional folk fairs. *Xinhua*



About 100 shanties razed in fire at slum area in Manila
This aerial picture shows residents searching for their belongings after a fire at a slum area in Manila, the Philippines. About 100 shanties were razed in the fire that started on Saturday afternoon, according to the Philippine Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP). *Xinhua*



Sunny Deol, Ameesha Patel visit Attari-Wagah border ahead of Gadar 2 release
Bollywood actors Sunny Deol, Ameesha Patel accompanied by singer Udit Narayan during the promotion of their upcoming movie 'Gadar 2' at the Joint Check Post (JCP) on the Attari-Wagha border. *ANI Photo*



Lion dance performed at Plaza de Oriente in Madrid, Spain
People watch lion dance at the Plaza de Oriente (Eastern Plaza) in Madrid, Spain. The Shenzhen Fuyong Huaide Lion Dance Troupe performed on the streets of Madrid at the invitation of the Madrid Summer in the City Festival and the Chinese Cultural Centre in Madrid. *Xinhua*



White-headed langurs spotted in S China's Guangxi
A flock of white-headed langurs rest on a cliff at a national nature reserve in Luobai Town of Jiangzhou District, Chongzuo City, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. *Xinhua*



Afghan farmers harvest grapes in Herat Province
A farmer holds bunches of grapes at a vineyard in Herat Province, Afghanistan. Farmers in Herat Province are busy harvesting grapes, one of Afghanistan's most profitable agricultural products. *Xinhua*

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat receives Best Bank Award 2023 from Euromoney

Euromoney’s decision was based on a number of different criteria including the product mix, financial performance, asset and revenue quality, customer satisfaction, and digital offerings. It also included growth in assets, profitability, geographic reach, strategic relationships, new business development and innovation in products

MUSCAT: In recognition of its outstanding contributions to the banking sector, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has been awarded the Best Bank in Oman award by Euromoney. Mohammed Sultan al Habsi, Chief Representative, UAE Representative Office, Bank Muscat, received the award on behalf of the bank.

Euromoney’s decision was based on a number of different criteria including the product mix, financial performance, asset and revenue quality, customer satisfaction, and digital offerings. It also included growth in assets, profitability, geographic reach, strategic relationships, new business development and innovation in products



mitted to its strategy of providing the best services and banking products to suit all segments of society and meet their aspirations. With a wide range of retail, corporate, wholesale and investment banking services as well as asset management and private banking offerings, Bank Muscat provides its customers with reliable, dynamic and innovative banking services and products, aiming to maintain market leadership.

Bank Muscat holds the distinction of being consistently voted as the Best Bank in Oman by prestigious local, regional and global institutions, including Global Finance, EMEA Finance and Meed. The bank was ranked as well by Forbes Middle East as one of the Top 100 Listed Companies and Top 50 Banks in the region.

The bank is the largest bank in Oman by total assets and has consistently demonstrated its leadership in position in Oman.

Bank Muscat announced recently its preliminary unaudited results for the six months ended 30 June 2023.

The bank posted a net profit of RO 104.32 million for the period compared to RO 99.26 million reported during the same period in 2022, an increase of 5.1 per cent.

DOUBLE CASHBACK



ahlibank offers 2% cashback on international credit card transactions

MUSCAT: As part of its endeavours to enhance customer experiences with exciting offers, ahlibank has announced an offer of up to 2% cashback on international transactions for all ahlibank credit card holders. This falls in line with the bank’s efforts to engage with its customers through generous rewards and innovative promotions.

Starting from August 1 until August 31, the month-long campaign will offer customers the chance to get up to 2% cashback on international transactions. A 1% cashback will be on international spending for all credit cards, in addition to the existing 1% which is already provided for the Signature and Infinite credit card holders. This would provide a signature and infinite customers double the cashback on international spending on POS or online.

This lucrative offer is part of ahlibank’s initiatives to engage with its customers through meaningful rewards, thereby strengthening relationships between the bank and its new or existing customers. By giving them a chance to earn back when spending internationally, ahlibank aims to enhance the customer’s experience at all times and be a preferred partner for their daily banking needs.

Commenting on the exciting offer, Muneer Al Balushi, AGM – Head of Retail Distribution at ahlibank, said, “We are always looking for new ways to keep our customer’s loyalty intact. Moreover, there is no better way to do it than by offering exciting and tangible rewards and promotions to them. Offering a cashback on international transactions is truly a value add, and we believe that our customers will receive this very well. Our goal is to improve the customer’s banking experience by creating a dynamic banking environment that aligns with current trends in the global and local banking industry.

ahlibank looks to provide the best services that enhance its preferred status as one of the most preferred banks in the country. This campaign is an effective step that reflects the bank’s contribution to its customers by enhancing their travel experiences. ahlibank is keen to invest in meaningful banking solutions using the latest innovations to support its customers. The bank has earned a reputation for enabling its customers to benefit from the best services and products and to provide easy and secure banking solutions.

PROMOTION

Exciting Ford campaign with attractive instalments and benefits ending soon



MUSCAT: Own a Ford now and get a chance to enjoy exclusive benefits including service 3 years / 60,000km, registration 1 year and attractive instalments. The campaign ends on August 9 (Conditions apply. Loan approval is based on sole discretion of finance companies/banks. EMI is calculated per month for a tenure of 8 years. For details visit a Ford showroom.)

Ford range of vehicles in Oman includes Taurus, Explorer, Mustang and Bronco.

The Ford Taurus is available with instalments starting from RO 204 per month. It blends seamless connectivity, high on-road performance, and an entirely new sleek modern design. Boasting an all-new design, on an entirely different platform, the all-new Taurus still exudes refinement with numerous premium touches. Featuring 19-inch, 10-spoke polished alloy wheels, a new flatter streamlined hood, and a power-deployable door handle, Taurus is sleeker in its stance. Under the bonnet, Ford’s proven 2.0-litre EcoBoost engine powers the all-new Taurus,

Ford range of vehicles in Oman includes Taurus, Explorer, Mustang and Bronco

mated to an eight-speed automatic transmission, producing 232 Hp and 388 Nm of torque. Offered with front-wheel drive and three driving modes – Normal, Sport, and Eco – the Blue Oval’s flagship sedan enjoys an impressive economy of as much as 15.3 km/l.

The Ford Explorer is available with instalments starting from RO 254 per month. Equipped with 4x4 capability, impressive space, comfort and a host of features and technology, the Ford Explorer always rises above and makes a fine mark on every terrain. The Explorer is equipped with a revised 2.3-litre turbocharged EcoBoost® engine

that produces 300 horsepower and 420Nm of torque. The engine is matched to an all-new 10-speed transmission and Intelligent All-Wheel-Drive system. With its quick-shifting 10-speed automatic transmission, Intelligent Four-Wheel Drive plus a Terrain Management System featuring seven selectable drive modes, the new Explorer is built to tackle virtually any adventure. Sand mode comes standard on all models.

The Ford Mustang is available with instalments starting from RO 321 per month. The Ford Mustang is the largest selling sport coupe in the world. The Mustang has throughout history remained an icon for those who prefer to be different. Preferred by customers across age groups, the Mustang is loaded with interesting features and technologies that allow it to make every drive outstanding. The Mustang is available with a more powerful, higher-revving 5.0L V8. Power output increases to 460HP and 569Nm of torque. The Mustang is available with 10-speed A/T. A new, fully cus-

tomizable 12” LCD digital instrument cluster. An all-new Mustang MyMode that allows you to save your favourite drive settings, including suspension, steering and exhaust note preferences.

The Ford Bronco WildTrak is available with instalments starting from RO 414 per month. The Ford Bronco WildTrak delivers maximum 4x4 go-anywhere, anytime capability and confidence. The Bronco is equipped with fantastic features that elevate off-road experiences for drivers, including off-road mapping and drive technologies. Race-bred EcoBoost® engines and a 10-speed automatic transmissions give the Bronco the optimal combination of power, torque and gear ranges to perform in a wide variety of terrains and uses. Best-in-class projected gasoline-powered horsepower and torque is available with the 2.7-liter EcoBoost V6 engine, which is projected to produce 330 horsepower and 544 lb.-ft. of torque.

In Oman, Ford vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Company.



mai alkaline

pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water

OmanOasis OmanOasisOfficial OmanOasisWater



HYDRATE SMARTLY

- ✓ Ultra-hydrating
- ✓ Revitalizing
- ✓ Energizing
- ✓ Electrolytes



800 71 222

9275 5522

CS No. 159/452



CS95
4WD 3 ROW
7 SEATER

INTRODUCING
THE ALL-NEW 2024MY CS95
HIGH-PERFORMANCE INTELLIGENT 7 SEATER FAMILY SUV



Width 1930mm

Length 4949 mm



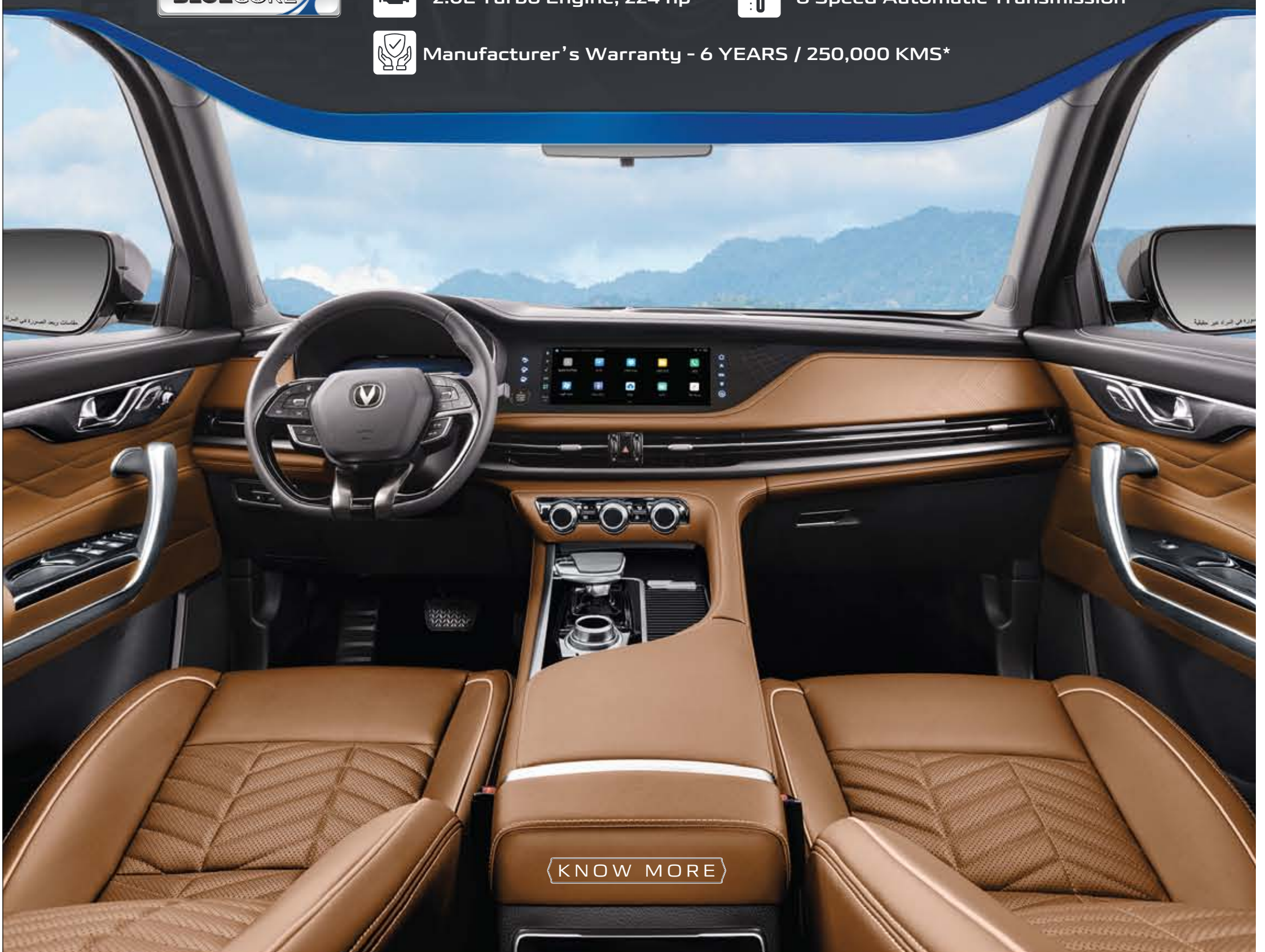
2.0L Turbo Engine, 224 hp



8 Speed Automatic Transmission



Manufacturer's Warranty - 6 YEARS / 250,000 KMS*



KNOW MORE

*Whichever is earlier. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. To know more, please visit the CHANGAN AUTO Showroom.

**Arabian Gulf Automobiles
and Equipment LLC**

For more details contact:
Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180, Sohar 95351200
Barka 96581495, Ibra 95500965, Ibri 79326176
Nizwa 94962202, Salalah 96562624, Buraimi 94419793

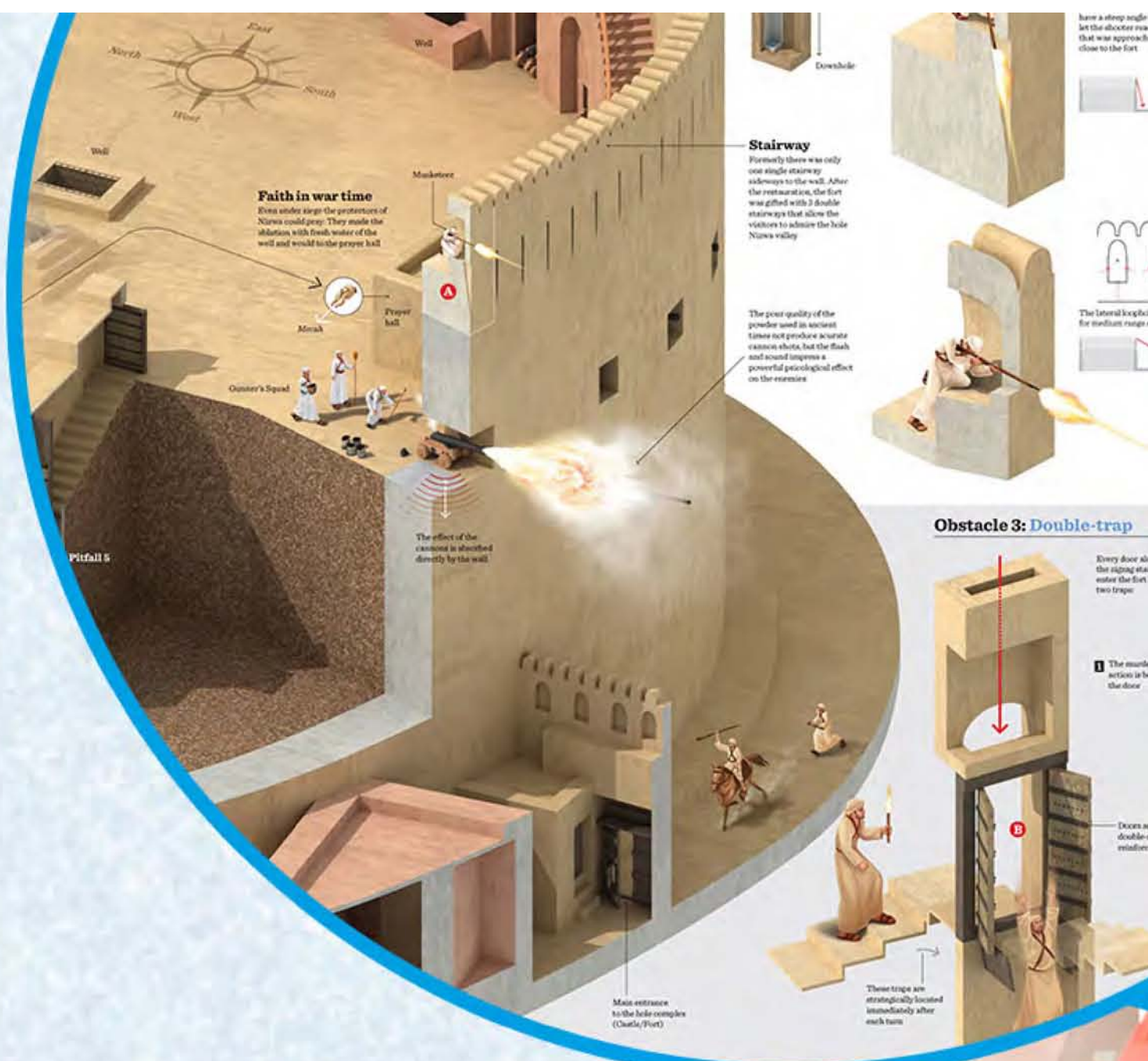
www.changanoman.com
 [changanoman](https://www.instagram.com/changanoman)

800 50800

C.R. No: 1232361



novagram



Let Novagram tell your story

Infographics
Infomercials
TV Ads
Corporate Videos
Insta Reels
Video Editing
Multimedia & Animation
Studio Services

CALL US:
90139993

sales@novagram.om



مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group



Buy 4 Continental Tyres & Get OMR 40 Fuel Voucher



- Promotion valid on 18" & above tyres only.
- Promotion valid on 2022 DOT only.
- Promotion valid from 18th June to 17th Aug
- Available at the authorized distributor outlets and authorized dealers.



91261728

**GERMAN
TECHNOLOGY**

For details visit SAUD BAHWAN GROUP TYRE RETAIL OUTLETS

Azaiba : **24035658** • Barka : **26887673** • BB Ali : **25553605** • Bureimi : **25660281** • Ghala : **24625165**
Ibra : **25570881** • Nizwa : **25410024** • Salalah : **23210138** • Seeb : **24452438** • Sohar Sanaya : **26948346**
Sohar : **26858661** • Suwaiq : **26860782** • Wattayah : **24579595** Email - enquiries@sbgta.com

Saud Bahwan Automotive LLC ISO 9001:2015 Certified | C.R No: 1703412, PO Box 3168, Ruwi, PC 112



SAUD BAHWAN Group