



OMAN TAKES PART IN ARAB PARLIAMENTARY UNION MEETING

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Council of Oman, participated yesterday in the 36th conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union, in the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. The two-day conference discussed the current situation in the Arab region, the challenges facing joint Arab action, and ways to enhance cooperation among the member states. **>A5**



Founded 1975 · Volume 49 No. 64 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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Sayyid Dr. Kamil Fahad Al Said receives the Order of the Star of Italy

A4



New mechanism explored for settlement of labour disputes

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour on Sunday organised a symposium on settlement of labour disputes.

The event was attended by business owners, workers, judges and lawyers. The symposium reviewed the challenges facing employers and explored new mechanism for the settlement of labour disputes within the provisions of the Omani Labour Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 53/2023. **>A5**



MEGA-DEVELOPMENT PLANS IN NIZWA TO CREATE MORE JOBS AND BOOST TOURISM

Many tourism projects have been fast-tracked so that they are completed early



NIZWA: A massive development plan of tourist places is ongoing in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate to attract local and foreign tourists. Nearly a million tourists are expected to visit the region annually after the completion of projects.

Many tourism projects have been fast-tracked so that the completion rate of development projects in the Governorate has reached almost 66 percent by the end of May 2024.

Some of these projects, executed under the Governorate Development Programme, will be completed during the first half of the current year, and on completion, they will become tourist destinations, enhancing aesthetic value, and serve the local community and visitors.

Sheikh Hilal bin Said bin

Hamdan Al Hajri, Governor of Al Dakhiliyah, said: "The completion rate of the entrance to the wilayat of Nizwa reached 85 percent, as the basic infrastructure of the project has been completed."

The work which includes construction from the Firq Bridge to the traffic lights intersection leading to the city centre, with a length of 1.5 km, includes developing both sides of the public road through green areas over an area of 23,000 square metres.

He explained that the implementation of the Nizwa Park project, which is located on an area of 150,000 square metres, will begin

next month. The project has been assigned to the executing company and will include a recreational park and an integrated site for family members. It will provide opportunities for investment and open new horizons for the owners of small and medium enterprises. It includes a library, an artificial lake with an area of 4,542 square metres, an indoor games hall, 25,000 square metres of green areas, 1,800 square metres of rubber tiles for the children's play area, and about 4,000 shade and flowering trees, in addition to sports facilities, restaurants, and kiosks for selling products.

He said: "The Interior Boule-

vard is one of the entertainment, cultural and service projects that will be implemented soon, especially after the financial nod for the project was given by the Tender Board. Tenders will be opened before the end of this month by the Tender Board. The project cost will be OMR7 millions.

"We expect the private sector to play their part in enhancing their contribution with an amount of OMR1.5 million. It will represent a qualitative leap in the tourism sector of the government. The project is an extension of the plan to develop the Nizwa Gate, with a total area of 145,000 square metres. **>A3**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN ROHM concludes 2023/24 season

1 The Royal Opera House Muscat concluded its 2023/24 season with a captivating performance of Scheherazade by the Cairo Opera. Audiences filled the Royal Opera House of Musical Arts for the grand show. **>A4**



WORLD 27 killed in Gujarat gaming zone fire

2 The death toll in the fire tragedy at a gaming zone in Gujarat's Rajkot has reached 27. Two people, including the owner and manager of the TRP game zone, have been taken to a police station. **>A6**

MARKET Entrepreneurs to explore partnership

3 Activities of the 2nd Omani-Bahraini Products Exhibition will begin on 29 May, in Manama. The opening ceremony will be held under the auspices of Bahraini Minister of Labour. **>B1**

GAZA DEATH TOLL as of May 26, 2024



SICKLE CELL DISEASE PATIENT

A tale of defying the odds and inspiring resilience

Pankaj K Sharma

MUSCAT: It is a tale where resilience meets resolve and Bahrain's Zakareya Al Khadem's story shines as a beacon of hope with his unwavering determination to tackle life as a patient of sickle cell disease (SCD).

During his recent visit to Muscat, Al Khadem brought attention to the challenges of sickle cell disease, shedding light on its impact with each word he spoke.

Al Khadem's shared his personal odyssey, unveiling the triumphs and tribulations faced by individuals grappling with SCD.

With unwavering resolve, he unveiled insights from the Sickle Cell Health Awareness, Perspectives, and Experience (SHAPE),



painting a clear picture of the challenges within.

A warrior whose spirit knows no bounds, Al Khadem, though physically frail, spoke with the vigour of a seasoned champion, recounting his perilous dance with mortality since the tender age of five.

Initially misjudged as a fleeting affliction by his parents, the diagnosis cast a shadow of permanence when doctors pronounced it as a life-threatening condition, seemingly tethering him to a fate of a very short life.

Yet, defying the grim prognosis, Al Khadem exceeded the eight-year sentence, challenging fate with unwavering fortitude.

With each passing milestone, he embraced life with a resolute heart, surpassing every expecta-

tion with grace and tenacity.

Today, at 50, he stands tall, a testament to resilience, telling his children, "I am a valiant fighter; I am here to stay."

Recounting the harrowing moments in the ICU, he painted a story of resilience, where amid the flurry of medical expertise, he found the strength to evade death's grasp.

The founder and chairman of Bahrain Sickle Cell Society, Al Khadem recounted, "There were moments when I hovered between life and death, surrounded by nearly 30 doctors. Yet, I somehow evaded the clutches of death."

One of the doctors, Dr Jaafar Al Touq, came along with him to Muscat during the panel discussion on the SCD held at JW Marriott Hotel recently. **>A4**

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:09pm
Asr.....	3:29pm
Maghrib.....	6:52pm
Isha.....	8:13pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	3:55am

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CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY

CPA seizes more than 1,000 expired items in Al Dakhiliyah

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Consumer Protection Authority (CPA) said that it has seized more than 1,000 expired items, including children's jelly toys, in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate. The seizure was made during routine inspection visits to stores and commercial centres in the governorate. These actions are clear violations of the Consumer Protection Law, its executive regulations, and Resolution No. 301/2021 which prohibits the circulation of jelly and slime toys of all kinds, shapes, and sizes in the markets of Oman unless the producers can provide necessary approvals from relevant authorities.

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COMMENTARY

Maternity leave a comprehensive overview



REEM NOOR AL ZADJALI

It is essential for every mother to rest, recover post-delivery, and care for the newborn. The International Labour Organisation mandates a minimum of 14 weeks (98 days) of maternity leave and recommend increasing it to at least 18 weeks. In Oman, the new labour law under Royal Decree No. 53/2023 extended maternity leave from 50 days to 98 days of fully paid maternity leave, covering pre- and post-birth periods. This applies even to women on temporary or training contracts and includes adoptive mothers of infants under three months old. Additionally, women can

request up to one year of unpaid leave for childcare. Including the post-maternity leave, nursing mothers are entitled to one hour daily for breastfeeding, as part of working hours for one year. Comparatively, Oman offers the longest maternity leave in the Gulf region. For instance, Bahrain grants 60 days of paid maternity leave, while Saudi Arabia provides 70 days. In Egypt, maternity leave extends to 112 days. Western countries such as the UK, Norway, Germany, Greece, Sweden, and Japan offer even more generous maternity leaves, ranging from 270 to 525 days. Maternity leave is crucial for newborns, allowing mothers to adapt to their needs and balance personal and professional life, enhancing their ability to balance between work and family responsibilities. Without sufficient leave, mothers may struggle to balance work and family, especially women who do not have family support, leading to reliance on private nurseries for newborns or domestic help. Increasing leave days, as seen in Oman's new labour law, reflects the country's commitment to supporting women and

family unity. However, extended maternity leave might have a negative impact on women's employment, promotions, and annual bonuses. While maternity leave supports new mothers during critical times, it can also temporarily disrupt their career progression and affect their immediate productivity upon return. Employers, especially in small businesses, may face additional costs and workforce shortages during maternity leave, here companies need to adapt to an employee's absence and reintegration, here ,companies need to adapt to an employee's absence and reintegration, which may impact workflow and team collaboration, in such case companies will need financial planning if a new person is temporarily employed for that period of time or have a clear task distribution to mitigate the absence. Questions arise about whether longer a maternity leave will affect women's employment opportunities, especially young graduates planning to marry, and if there will be mandatory hiring quotas for women based on merit rather than gender. Despite equality under the law, employers naturally weigh both

positive and negative aspects of hiring, including the implications of a 98-day maternity leave and the possibility of extended unpaid leave. Shared parental leave Some European countries address these issues by offering shared parental leave, which is a modern policy allowing both parents to split the leave period sharing the responsibility of caring for their newborn. This approach minimises the career impact on mothers, particularly if they are the primary earners and gives fathers an active role in early childcare, fostering a strong bond between father and child from the start leading to more balanced parental involvement throughout the child's life. This policy may also help break down traditional gender roles that often see mothers as the primary caregivers and promotes gender equality both at home and in the workplace, encouraging a more balanced distribution of childcare duties. Shared parental leave can mitigate the career impact on mothers by reducing the length of time they need to be away from work, maintaining their professional momentum and can prevent potential dis-

crimination related to extended absences. Despite progress, women still seek equality in leadership roles, emphasising the need for supportive work policies that balance professional and personal responsibilities. Over time, the impact of maternity leave on women's employment will become clearer, emphasising the importance of fostering inclusive workplaces. In conclusion, maternity leave is a critical support system for new mothers, enabling them to care for their newborns and recover from childbirth while balancing their personal and professional lives. Despite the challenges it may pose to women's career progression and employers' operational continuity, the benefits to both mother and child are undeniable. We must recognise and honour the resilience and dedication of women who successfully navigate their professional and personal responsibilities, achieving leadership positions and making significant contributions to their fields. Their success is a testament to their strength and capability, proving that with the right support, women can excel and thrive in all areas of life.

AL DAKHILIYAH

Project to attract 944,000 tourists

FROM He pointed out that the project will be one of the vital entertainment places in the governorate, in addition to an open field and entertainment centre on an area of 145,000 square metres, which includes a sports walkway extending for about 4 kilometres, paths for bicycles and scooters with a length of 1.65 kilometres, and open theatres for the holding of festivals, events, fountains, sites for laser shows, restaurants, mobile libraries, sites for productive families and small and medium enterprises. It also includes 10 investment sites and 50 sites for usufruct contracts in various fields. It is hoped that the project will attract 944,000 tourists and visitors annually and provide permanent and temporary job opportunities. Regarding the project of the integrated station for public transport buses and taxis in the state of Nizwa, he said that it was presented on a development platform for investment by the private sector in coordination with Mwasalat, and the idea of the project was also presented to companies specialised in this aspect. It will be built on an area of 11,412 square metres, and will include a commercial market, a passenger waiting station, and shaded and public parking.

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Sayyid Dr. Kamil Fahad receives the Order of the Star Of Italy

This honour was accorded to Sayyid Dr. Kamil Fahad in recognition of his contributions in strengthening cultural relations between Italy and Oman

MUSCAT: The “Ordine della Stella d’Italia” (Order of the Star of Italy), Knighthood with the rank of Knight (Cavaliere), was conferred on His Highness Sayyid Dr. Kamil Fahad Al Said on the 26 May 2024. Pierluigi D’Elia, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy to the Sultanate of Oman, officiated at the ceremony.

The Patron of the Order of the prestigious Star of Italy is the President of the Republic of Italy. The order is bestowed on expatriates and foreigners who achieve extraordinary results in the preservation and promotion of Italy’s national prestige and in augmenting bilateral relations between Italy and other countries.

This great honour was accorded to His Highness Sayyid Dr. Kamil



Fahad Al Said in recognition of his significant contributions in strengthening cultural relations between Republic of Italy and the Sultanate of Oman through his dedicated work with the Royal Opera House Muscat since 2006.

In a speech during the ceremony, His Highness Dr. Kamil Al Said remarked that the conferral of the Order of the Star of Italy “is more than a reflection of personal achievement as it also signifies the inestimable value of friendship in the international domain and of the fruitful collaboration between Italy and Oman”. He noted that His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik continues to advance the noble ideals envisioned by Late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said for the Royal Opera House Muscat, which “has become the flagship of these ideals with its commitment to excellence in programming and in



fostering ties of friendship and understanding”.

Since the grand inauguration of the Royal Opera House Muscat in 2011 with Puccini’s Turandot performed by Arena di Verona, an important feature of the partnership between Italy and Oman

is the staging in the Royal Opera House Muscat of a series of acclaimed productions from some of Italy’s most prestigious opera houses.

These productions include among many others, The Barber of Seville performed by Teatro San



Carlo, L’Elisird’Amore with Teatro La Fenice and Le Nozze di Figaro with Accademia Teatro alla Scala. The collaboration between the two countries was taken a step further with joint work in the creation of three original co-productions: Bizet’s Lakmé, and Verdi’s La Traviata and Rigoletto.

These cooperative ventures in artistic creation have enriched the cultural landscape of Oman while strengthening the friendly bilateral ties between the two countries.

Looking to the future, His Highness eloquently stated, “Let us

continue to deepen the bonds between our two countries, drawing from the rich tapestry of our shared experiences and the universal language of music. Together, we can build a legacy of understanding and cultural enrichment that transcends borders and resonates across the echoes of time.”

The ambassador praised the role of His Highness the General Secretariat for the Council of Ministers: “His Highness Sayyid Dr. Kamil Fahad Mahmood Al Said has played a vital role in strengthening the cultural relations between Italy and Oman through the Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM), specifically in promoting performances, exhibitions and initiatives related to the tradition of Italian Opera and music in the Sultanate and supporting Omani cultural initiatives such as the participation at the Venice Art Biennale.”

COMMENTARY

A beach of isolation and private thoughts



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

While every picture tells a story and that morning, on the deserted beach, the woman in a black abaya, told a sad story. She had her knees pulled up on her chin, the white surf at the end of the rushing waves were breaking on her pink toes. She was crying and she was looking at the water as if to find answers.

I was tempted to sit next to her and asked what went wrong. But I fought the impulse and walked away like I should. I kept on walking until she was just a dark blob in the white sands of the beach. I wondered, as I was looking at the seagulls feeding on mackerel, if the roof of her world collapsed on her head.

Women are vulnerable to men’s exploitations but then it has always been a man’s world whichever way you look at it. On the other hand, it is never about right or wrong in a woman’s world. It is about the stability they can get from a man whether they grow up in their father’s house or with their husbands.

I would not say women are unpredictable as some men would suggest. If they appear mysterious it is because men do not understand their needs. But women are expected to understand men’s motives, show patience and wait for their partners to “come around.” When they never do, women just hope that their men would change for the better but does it ever happen?

The best thing about women is that they keep discovering themselves as they grow older while men get

stagnated as they get long on the tooth. All these thoughts went on my mind as I was walking the opposite direction of the beach. In the middle of the week and that time of the day, no one comes to the shoreline for an exercise.

Only those who have been abandoned or treated unfairly by some circumstances, perhaps beyond repair, would do. My excuse for being there was to pick up unusual shells. The fact that I was more likely to pick up dead fish than something of any value proved that I had other things in my mind.

I passed a man who was holding a flute but had no intention of playing it. The flute was just his excuse for being there. There was a fisherman on that patch of the beach. In theory, he had every right to be there since he plied his trade from the sea. But on closer scrutiny, he was just like the rest of us in a similar frame of mind. He was absent-mindedly stroking the side of his boat, the way you would do to your favourite pet. He had his back to me and that gave me a few seconds to extend my curiosity. There was so much wave of love from his hand pouring on a structure of wood that really surprised me.

Certainly, it was his appreciation to the boat for earning him an income. He must have felt my presence because he snatched away his hand from the vessel and turned his head. I just mumbled my salaams and walked away but felt like an intruder who crept in someone’s bedroom.

For the fishermen, the boat reciprocated his unconditional love. It would never let him down. There was something about the beach that attracts people who find themselves falling from grace and they needed to be alone with their thoughts. I left the graceful beach when the sun was continuing its climb to the west. The woman was still there when I drove past the embankment on that side of the road. I am sure it was a man who was responsible for her sadness.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE MUSCAT

ROHM concludes 2023/24 season with Cairo Opera performance

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat concluded its 2023/24 season with a captivating performance of Scheherazade by the Cairo Opera, directed by Walid Aouni.

Audiences filled the Royal Opera House of Musical Arts to experience the world of 1001 Nights through a dazzling dance performance by the Cairo Opera’s Modern Dance Company.

Under the visionary direction of Walid Aouni, Artistic Director, Director, and Designer of the Egyptian Modern Dance Company, the performance spellbound audiences with its innovative interpretation of one of Arab history’s most famous tales.

Unique staging

Aouni’s reimagining of Scheherazade, inspired by Rimsky-Korsakov’s evocative score, featured unique staging and costumes that brought the story to life. “What you hear is a depiction of what can be read in the book or seen in our imaginations, such as the smell of a perfume or the feel or meaning of a rhythm: arguably no composer reaches as deeply into story, chasing musical expression to interpret sentences, as Rimsky-Korsakov did,” explained Aouni.

Founded in 1993, the Egyptian Modern Dance Company is the first-of-its-kind in the Arab world, having performed globally from Europe to Russia and across the



Middle East.

This marks the company’s second visit to Oman, following the successful presentation of Zorba the Great and El Leila El Kebira

cat invites all its loyal customers to discover its cultural programme including daily tours of its main theatre and its unique permanent exhibition, Oman and the World: A Musical Journey. Additionally, ROHM will host its annual children’s summer camp, focusing on the theme of the Animal World.

These workshops aim to teach children to capture the essence of animals through acting, connecting them with nature and sound. Led by local and international teachers, children will explore animal sounds, colours, and behaviours through various activities, discovering the limitless possibilities of theatre.

SICKLE CELL DISEASE

‘Social gatherings and aspirations are eclipsed by omnipresent spectre of illness’

Al Touq stood by his side amid the darkness of uncertainty as a steadfast ally in his battle.

“You will not succumb,” echoed Al Touq words, igniting a flame of determination within Al Khadem’s soul.

Contrasting landscapes of survival

In his praise for the supportive governments of Oman and Bahrain, Al Khadem illuminated the contrasting landscapes of survival, where hope thrives.

“People in Oman suffering

from sickle cell disease (SCD) live until 55 years while in Bahrain the life expectancy is up to 65 years,” he said.

He added: “Even in the same family if two persons are suffering, one would come to the clinic regularly but the other would avoid. Maybe it has something to do with stigma, finances and social causes.”

Yet, amid the whispers of societal stigma and financial hardship, he recognised the shadows that loom over those afflicted with SCD. Within his narrative lies the

poignant reality of solitary battles fought within the familial confines. Social gatherings and aspirations are eclipsed by the omnipresent spectre of illness, casting shadows over lives intertwined with SCD.

“A patient has to fight a lonely battle on many fronts. One’s own family will convince not to enter into wedlock and keep illness under the wraps. Many families have to suffer as they have to miss their social gatherings or vacations due to the ailment of the patient at home,” he said.

“Even when you try to educate society and dispel misunderstandings about illness, they may dismiss you as too fragile. And finding a job becomes a challenge due to your medical condition,” remarked Al Khadem.

In his mission to challenge societal misconceptions, Al Khadem’s unwavering voice, despite facing resistance, resounds with undeniable conviction. “We are not weak; we are warriors,” he said, striving to paint a world where acceptance triumphs over prejudice and understanding eclipses ignorance.

SAYYID BADR BIDS FAREWELL TO KENYAN AMBASSADOR

Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received in his office on Sunday Amina Ali Abdullah, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to the Sultanate of Oman, to bid her farewell at the end of her tour of duty. Sayyid Badr expressed his appreciation for the efforts exerted by the ambassador in enhancing bilateral relations, wishing her success. —ONA



ARAB PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Unity among Arab nations must to show their strength: Shura Council Chairman

ALGIERS: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Council of Oman, on Sunday participated in tasks of the 36th conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union, being held in the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

The two-day conference discusses the current situation in the Arab region, the challenges facing joint Arab action, and ways to enhance cooperation between the Union's member states.

In particular, the conference also discusses developments in the Palestinian issue, notably the brutal aggression staged by Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, as well as means to extend support to Palestine.

Arab unity
Speaking at the conference, Khalid Hilal Al Maawali, Chairman the Shura Council, underscored the significance of realising Arab unity as the sole way to restore the status of the Arab na-



tion among other nations.

He said that "It is necessary to rebuild bridges of trust and brotherhood and end conflicts that only serve the enemies of the nation".

Al Maawali pointed out that the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip "exposed false slogans" and that "calls for peace

that need to be heeded should have a solid, unified Arab position backing them". He added that "an observer of the situation of Palestine would realise that this occupation force only recognizes the standards of force and the leverage of confrontation".

Al Maawali praised the position of global free media, which,

he said, showed the whole world the legitimacy of the Palestinian cause, the tragedies Palestinians are undergoing and aggressions of the brutal Israeli occupation. "Resistance against this occupation is nothing but an inherent right to defend an occupied land against the occupier," said Al Maawali. — ONA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Projects and Services Forum commences

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Projects and Services Forum commenced on Sunday under the slogan "Towards an Integrated and Advanced Education Environment."

The forum is organised by the Ministry of Education, represented by the Directorate-General of Projects and Services, and under the patronage of Majid bin Said Al Bahri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for

Administrative and Financial Affairs.

The two-day forum was held in the presence of directors-general and their assistants, directors of departments and divisions of the Directorate-General of Projects and Services, and their counterparts in the educational directorates in the governorates and is taking place at the Maani Hotel Muscat.

The opening ceremony of the forum included the inauguration

of the forum's logo, after which Khamis Al-Hadidi, Director-General of the Directorate-General of Projects and Services, delivered the opening speech.

"This forum represents a special occasion to discuss ways to develop our work, by reviewing the achievements of the Directorate and our partners in the educational governorates, examining the development aspects in the projects and services sector, and exploring new horizons and inno-

vative methods that will enhance the quality of our services," he pointed out.

He also reviewed the efforts of the Directorate and its counterparts in the educational governorates regarding preparation for the academic year.

He said that 33 school buildings were received from the beginning of the current academic year, and 20 schools were expanded while 350 schools were maintained and restored.

SYMPOSIUM

Discussion on ways to solve labour issues

< FROM A1 Working papers presented at the symposium touched on the role of amicable settlement committees in resolving labour disputes. They also underlined the importance of arbitration as a means of settlement of labour disputes as stipulated by the Omani Labour Law.

The symposium was also attended by Sheikh Nasr Amer Al Hosni, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour for Labour.

He said the symposium brings together diverse perspectives to enhance interaction and formulate recommendations to benefit all parties involved.

Hussein bin Ali Al Lawati, Di-

rector General of Labour Welfare, explained that the symposium, through the working papers, will address the practical reality of resolving labour disputes and the mechanism according to the Omani Labour Law No. (53/2023) and the ministerial decisions implementing it.

He added that the symposium discussed alternative means of resolving labour disputes that can be used and adopted by some countries. He expressed hope that the symposium will come up with recommendations that contribute to resolving and settling labour disputes in a way that guarantees the rights of workers and business owners alike.



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3	1710000336-24	Hiring of Rock Breaker with Operator	RO. 52.500	30th June 2024 1500 Hours	02nd July 2024 2359 Hours
4	1710000337-24	Supply of Explosives, Accessories and Blasting Crews & Engineers	RO.105	30th June 2024 1500 Hours	02nd July 2024 2359 Hours

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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 22705601, 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 the ORIGINAL bid bond must be submitted on the tender box at the reception on our Administration Building, Al Mesfah 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.

TENDER



Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries
Wealth and Water Resources

The Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources Announces the following Tenders :-

Tender no.	Tender Title	Tender Document Sales Start Date	Tender Document Sales End Date	Bid Submission Closing	Companies that are eligible to participate	Tender Document fee (R.O)
355/2024/MAF-WR/HQ-23	Maintenance Works at Al Shrigheh (1) Storage Dam at Wadi Al-Ain of Wilayat Al Jabal Al Akhdar & Dam at Wadi Al Musalah of Wilayat Nizwa in AL Dakhiliyah Governorate	Monday 20/5/2024	Sunday 9/6/2024	Sunday 30/6/2024	Specialized companies registered with The General Secretariat of the Tender Board with third and fourth grades	(25/-) Omani riyals for local companies (10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs

Above mentioned Grade) may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>.

The value of the document will be paid & submitted on line on given website.

The Tenderer should attach Bid Commitment Declaration for local companies, and for International company that not have head quarters in the Sultanate of Oman should attach Bank Guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman (as required in the tender) and addressed to the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources.

All correspondence pertaining to the tender inquiry must be online at e-tendering System.

All correspondence pertaining to the e-tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: **+968 24402200** or etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om.



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INDIA

27 killed in massive fire at Rajkot gaming zone

RAJKOT: The death toll in the fire tragedy at a gaming zone in Rajkot has reached 27, police said on Sunday. A massive fire broke out at a gaming zone in Gujarat's Rajkot city on May 25 evening resulting in the loss of lives including children. Meanwhile, Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghvi said that he is heading to Rajkot and SIT will start its investigation tonight only in the Rajkot fire tragedy which claimed 27 lives. "... Many families have lost their children in this incident... I am going to Rajkot right now. The SIT will start its investigation tonight. The administrator and the manager have been arrested. A meeting will take place after visiting the fire spot and the action

will start tonight. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also taken the details from the Chief Minister... Members of the SIT are ordered to reach Rajkot by 3 am...The CM will be provided with the details tonight itself..." Harsh Sanghvi said. Two people, including the owner and manager of the TRP game zone in Rajkot, have been taken to a police station for interrogation

into the fire incident at the gaming facility. According to officials, the fire broke out at around 4.30 pm. Rajkot Police Commissioner, Raju Bhargava shared the development on the matter and said, "The police action is underway. The owner and the manager of the TRP game zone have been taken to the police station for interrogation."

— ANI

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR



Israel continues deadly offensive in Rafah, closes two crossings

GAZA: The Israeli occupation forces persist in their ground onslaught on Rafah, south of the Gaza Strip, and the closure of the Karm Abu Salem and Rafah border crossings in the province, disregarding the recent rulings of the International Court of Justice. The ICJ, the highest judicial body of the United Nations, ordered Israel last Friday to immediately halt its military operations in Rafah. **Gaza's only gateway** The court also emphasised the necessity of keeping the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, Gaza's only gateway to the outside world, open to enable the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza. Under the provisional measures, the court demanded that Israel, in line with its obligations

under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, take concrete actions to ensure access for any United Nations investigation or fact-finding committee to investigate reports of genocide without any hindrance. In a clear defiance of the court's orders, Israeli forces intensified their aggression on Rafah, with warplanes and artillery targeting multiple areas in the city during the last few hours, resulting in the martyrs of dozens and injuries, as well as significant destruction to the homes and properties of civilians. According to medical sources, no patient or wounded person has been able to leave the Gaza Strip since the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing was occupied by the Israeli army, estimated at around 20,000 patients and wounded individuals. — OMA

WABAG: The death toll from Papua New Guinea's massive landslide rose to 670, the International Organisation for Migration estimated on Sunday, as aid workers and villagers braved dangerous conditions in a desperate search for survivors. The once bustling hillside village Yambali in the province of Enga was almost completely wiped out when the landslide struck in the early hours of Friday morning, burying dozens of homes and the people sleeping in them. "There are an estimated 150-plus houses now buried" said UN migration agency official Serhan Aktoprak, adding that "670-plus people are assumed dead". "The situation is terrible with the land still sliding. The water is running and this is creating a massive risk for everyone involved," added Aktoprak, who is based in Port Moresby.



Relief workers were moving survivors to safer ground Sunday as tons of unstable earth and tribal warfare common in Papua New Guinea's highlands threatened rescue efforts. **Thousand people displaced** Relief agencies and local leaders initially feared that between 100 and 300 people had died in the disaster. By Sunday, they recovered only five bodies and the leg of a sixth victim. Authorities revised the death toll upward when aid workers on the ground realised more people were living in the village than initially thought. The village was home to more than 4,000 people and served as a trading post for alluvial min-

ers who panned for gold in the highlands. The disaster has displaced more than 1,000 people, and food gardens and water supplies have been nearly wiped out. On both sides of the massive debris field, which covers an area the size of three to four football fields and has cut off the main highway through the province, government authorities set up evacuation centers on safer ground. **Tribal clashes in area** In addition to the blocked highway, the convoys faced risks from tribal fighting in the village of Tambitanis, about halfway along the route, as they transported food, water and other essentials to the devastated village, 60 kilometres (35 miles) from the provincial capital of Wabag, since Saturday. Papua New Guinea soldiers provided security for the convoys. Eight locals were killed on Saturday in a clash between two rival clans over a long-standing dispute unrelated to the landslide. Enga province is a sparsely populated and difficult-to-access inland region in the northern half of Papua New Guinea. The landslide occurred approximately 600 kilometres northwest of the capital, Port Moresby. Just south of the equator, the area often experiences heavy rainfall, including intense downpours and flooding this year. It is also prone to volcanic and seismic activity. In March, a landslide killed at least 23 people in a nearby province. — Agencies

TUNISIA

Thousands of migrants 'dumped' in the desert

LAMPEDUSA: The fear is there, day and night, said Mamadou from Chad, who asked that DW not use his full name for fear of reprisals, recounting what happened to him earlier this month after he failed to reach the Italian island of Lampedusa with the help of human traffickers. "The Tunisian Coast Guard officers took our cell phones and our money, then they drove us to the Libyan border where they stripped us and left us alone," he told DW from his hiding place: An olive grove near Tunisia's port city of Sfax. He said he had walked around 240 kilometres (150 miles) through the desert to get there. **Hiding in an olive grove** The olive grove has become a notorious hiding place for around 80,000 sub-Saharan migrants waiting for a chance to cross the Mediterranean Sea so that they can get to Europe. Lauren Seibert, a researcher at Human Rights Watch who focuses on refugee and migrant rights, said that what Mamadou and others had experienced was "an unlawful collective expulsion, or what people are calling 'desert dumps.'" Algeria, Libya and Mauritania had been "practising collective expulsions for many years," she told DW, but in Tunisia it was a more recent phenomenon had appeared to become systematic since last year. That view was echoed by an expert on Tunisian migration who spoke to DW on condition of anonymity: "In the past years, there have been a handful of cases, usually when smuggler boats from Libya were intercepted by Tunisian authorities," he said. "Now, expulsions seem to be more systematised, in part they involve urban detentions in plac-



es like Sfax and Zarzis and they also entail a shift in how migrants intercepted at sea are handled," he added. Earlier this month, Light-house Reports, an investigative news organisation that collaborated with several international media outlets published a report about the increase of so-called "desert dumps." After a year-long investigation, it concluded that the Tunisian National Guard was at the center of these operations, with much of the finances coming from European countries. **Incentivised migration curbing** Since last year, the EU has entered migration partnerships with Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia, deals that include funding specifically meant to be used to curb migration to Europe. For many observers, the recent developments in Tunisia's migration policy is especially worrying, since Tunisia has become a popular departure point for migrants from across Africa hoping to get to Europe. The country had capped visa requirements in 2015, and it was widely known that the country needed for cheap labor in the unofficial sector, which made it a

good stopping place for people to raise the funds to get across the Mediterranean. In the past decade, the port city of Sfax, which is less than 150 kilometres (90 miles) from Lampedusa, has become a major hub for human trafficking, something that was more or less tolerated by the Tunisian authorities. But in February 2023, Tunisian President Kais Saied launched a new crackdown on migrants after claiming that sub-Saharan migrants entering the country were deliberately changing the demographic structure of Tunisia. He said that this threatened to transform Tunisia into an "African" country instead of an "Arab-Muslim" one. This was followed by a nationwide police operation that was in part supported by the Tunisian population, with many sub-Saharan families being harassed on the streets, evicted from their homes and arbitrarily detained. However, after international condemnation and some minor local demonstrations, Kais Saied visited Sfax in an attempt to calm the situation. In July last year, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen offered a partnership package to Tunisia worth

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

BRIEFS

At least 47 killed in Sudan's el Fasher region: Report

KHARTOUM: At least 30 civilians and 17 soldiers were killed in attacks in the Sudanese city of el-Fasher, as fighting in the country shows no sign of abating since the conflict started in mid-April last year, reported Al Jazeera. "This shows that the goal of those attacking el-Fasher is to exterminate the city," Sudanese politician Minni Minnawi said. War in Sudan erupted in mid-April last year when a simmering feud between the leaders of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) exploded into violence, Al Jazeera reported.



Rare blue-eyed Cicada insect sighted in Chicago



ILLINOIS: A rare blue-eyed Cicada insect was sighted in the Morton Arboretum's Children's Garden in Illinois, the United States of America. Few saw the cicada at the arboretum before its release back into suburban Chicago to join its red-eyed relatives. The common look of cicadas is having red eyes, which makes the insect observed in the arboretum a rare sighting. Periodical cicadas emerge every 13 or 17 years. Only the 17-year brood is beginning to show so far in spots as far north in Illinois as Lisle, where three different species are digging out of the ground, attaching to trees, shedding their exoskeleton and putting on a show, the Associated Press reported.

Six newborns killed in fire accident at Delhi hospital

NEW DELHI: As many as six newborns have lost their lives after a massive fire broke out at a New Born Baby Care Hospital in Delhi's Vivek Vihar in the late hours of Saturday. According to the Delhi Fire Department, a total of 12 children were rescued, out of which six have died, one is on the ventilator and five are admitted to the hospital. The rescued newborns have been shifted to East Delhi Advance NICU hospital. On information, police officials and firefighters reached the spot and doused the fire.

— Agencies

SPORTS

KKR storm blows away Sunrisers Hyderabad

KKR completed the run-chase, making 114/2 in 10.3 overs, with Venkatesh (52* in 26 balls, with four boundaries and three sixes)

CHENNAI : An all-round performance from Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), including fiery spells by Mitchell Starc and Andre Russell and a half-century by Venkatesh Iyer, helped the Purple and Gold side secure their third Indian Premier League (IPL) title and their first in 10 years as they defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) by eight wickets on Sunday at Chennai's Chepauk Stadium.

Sunrisers, which set the T20 cricketing world on fire with their fierce hitting, sky-high run-rates, largely due to the opening pair of Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma, got the taste of its own medicine. In a battle of two big buys, the Australian stars Cummins (20.5 crores for SRH) and Starc (24.75 crores for KKR), it was the latter who prevailed.

During the run-chase of 114 runs, the opening pair of Sunil Narine and Rahmanullah Gurbaz could not put on a lengthy partnership. Narine was dismissed for just six runs in two balls, with SRH skipper Pat Cummins getting his wicket. Shahbaz Ahmed took a fine catch. KKR was 11/1 in 1.2 overs.

Venkatesh Iyer joined Gurbaz and took the run-chase forward.



The left-handed Venkatesh started Bhuvneshwar Kumar's third over with a four, six and then another six. 20 runs came from the over.

With a boundary on delivery by Cummins, Gurbaz helped KKR reach the 50-run mark in 4.1 overs.

The final over of the powerplay by T Natrajan also proved to be a run-fest, with Iyer getting three fours and a six over deep square leg in his over, which gave a total of 20 runs to KKR.

At the end of the powerplay after six overs, KKR was 72/1, with Iyer (40*) and Gurbaz (21*) unbeaten.

Kolkata marched towards the winning total with their brutal hitting, giving SRH a taste of their own medicine. With a six by Iyer over long-off, KKR crossed the 100-run mark in 8.4 overs.

However, Gurbaz lost his wickets, trapped leg-before wicket by Shahbaz Ahmed for 39 in 32 balls, with five fours and two sixes. KKR was 102/2 in 8.5 overs.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer was next up and he started by launching a reverse sweep into the boundary.

KKR completed the run-chase, making 114/2 in 10.3 overs, with Venkatesh (52* in 26 balls, with

four boundaries and three sixes) and Shreyas (6* in three balls, with a four) unbeaten.

Pat Cummins and Shahbaz Ahmed got a wicket each.

Earlier, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) quicks made short work of the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) forcing the Pat Cummins side to unfold on a score of 113 in the title clash of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 on Sunday here at the MA Chidambaram Stadium.

On a night with clouds hovering over Chepauk, KKR pacers inflicted carnage on a red soil surface which offered more bounce for the speedsters.

It all started with Mitchell Starc putting on an exhibition with the new ball to put Hyderabad on the back foot through his opening spell, returning with a figure of 2-14 while Andre Russell, Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravathy combined well in the middle phase to pile the misery with Russell finishing with three wickets in just 2.3 overs, conceding 19.

Put to bat first, Starc with an outstanding opening over dimmed SRH openers' hopes of forming a strong partnership. The Aussie pacer, who was acquired by KKR for a whopping price of Rs 24.75 crores, becoming the most expensive player of the tournament's history, gave SRH a big blow as he bowled a top-notch delivery to remove opener Abhishek Sharma for two in the first over of the innings.

The right-arm fast-medium Vaibhav Arora piled more misery on SRH as he dismissed Travis Head for a duck.

SRH was blown away by Starc's inswingers as the pacer delivered a terrific delivery which Rahul Tripathi mistimed to hand a catch to Ramandeep Singh at the mid-wicket.

After three dismissals Aiden Markram and Nitish Reddy then held the charge to take SRH past 40/3 after 6 overs. Markram then opened his hands and cracked 17 off Vaibhav's over, slamming back-to-back two boundaries.

Harshit Rana then bagged his first wicket of the night, removing Nitish Reddy for 13 in the 7th over. After some superb stuff from the KKR pacers, captain Shreyas Iyer introduced spin by giving the bowl to Sunil Narine, who kept the run flow in check.

Andre Russell came into the attack and got a wicket of set batter Markram for 20 and in his next over he removed Abdul Samad for 4.

Harshit then dismissed Heinrich Klaasen for 16 and the last pure batter of SRH also departed leaving Hyderabad's hope of scoring a big total in a ditch. This was the second-lowest score at the fall of the 7th wicket in an IPL final.

Pat Cummins kept piling runs and rotating strikes, however, the captain failed to guide his team to a big total as Russell bagged the last wicket bundling out SRH for 113 in 18.3.

Brief score: Sunrisers Hyderabad 18.3 (Pat Cummins 24, Aiden Markram 20; Andre Russell 3-19) vs Kolkata Knight Riders. -ANI

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AHLIBANK AT COMEX
ahlibank participates as the main sponsor for the highly anticipated Comex event, Oman's official technology, communications, innovation, and digital transformation show. The bank is set to showcase its digital products and services, and its overarching digital journey in the country.

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,805.70 points, up by 0.06 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.20 per cent at 455.16 points. Oman Flour Mills, up 3.11 per cent, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Generating, down 6.49 per cent, was the top loser.

Pact inked to empower livestock breeders in North Al Batinah

This agreement comes within the framework of Oman Flour Mills efforts to strengthen food security and sustainability in the agricultural livestock sector and support local communities in Oman

Times News Service



MUSCAT: Oman Flour Mills Company (OFM), signed an agreement, to support and empower livestock breeders in the Governorate of North Al Batinah, by providing high-quality animal feed for two years, to contribute to improving livestock nutrition and increasing productivity.

This agreement comes within the framework of OFM's efforts to strengthen food security and sustainability in the agricultural livestock sector and support local com-

munities in the Sultanate of Oman.

The pact was signed in the presence of Sheikh Mohammed bin Sulaiman Al Kindi, Governor of the Governorate of North Al Batinah, and Ahmed bin Alawi Al Marza, Head of the Sustainability Department in Oman Flour Mills Company.

Al Kindi praised the efforts made by Omani Flour Mills in promoting sustainable development and providing support to livestock breeders in North Al Batinah to

raise their production efficiency.

For his part, Ahmed bin Alawi Al Marza' stated that this step comes as a part of the national and social responsibility undertaken by Oman Flour Mills, to support the government's efforts, represented by the Ministry of Agricultural Wealth, Fisheries and Water Resources, that aims to contribute to provide requirements of food security in the Sultanate of Oman, that OFM pays great attention to it, due to its

importance in reducing imports and meeting the urgent need for Omani meat in the markets.

In addition to its basic activity of grinding wheat and other types of grains and selling flour under its leading brand "Dhahabi", the leading brand of the Oman Flour Mills Company, whose products include more than 20 types of flour and related products; OFM exerts unremitting efforts in providing animal feed.

In this field, the company's in-

dustrial activities, also, include the manufacture and production of animal feed under the "Barakat" brand for animal feed, while the group factories of OFM, expanded investment in the industrial production of animal feed by erecting three factories for the production of animal feed, to enhance the inputs of the circular economy and utilizing the available raw materials in the local environment, to produce a range of feed products in an economical, sustain-

able and environmentally friendly manner, that enhances food security and provides in-country value added to meet the needs of the Sultanate of Oman for food manufacturing inputs.

Among the company's efforts in this field, is the animal feed production plant at Wilayat of Muttrah, which is the third factory established by Oman Flour Mills Company as part of its efforts to contribute to achieving the goals of Oman Vision 2040.

FSA

Awareness campaign on #Cyber Risk Insurance launched

Times News Service

MUSCAT: To enhance insurance awareness as effective tool for risk management of innovative insurance products, specifically in the field of digitalisation and inherent electronic risk, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) launched an awareness campaign via various media and social media accounts named # Cyber Risk Insurance because of increased cyber-attacks and cyber risks on various government and private sector entities and the resulting damage on the institutions and their customers.

The campaign aims to highlight the consequences of cyber-attacks and how cyber risk insurance policy can mitigate the risks as a tool of risk management. Cyber risk insurance aims to protect the individuals and enterprises from the consequences of cyber-attacks resulting from using the internet by providing insurance coverage for cyber breaches which lead to service or production interruption and the ensuing losses

in revenue as well as breaches of privacy and confidentiality and resultant legal consequences, penalties, reputational damage and loss of customer confidence.

The policy provides the service of engaging cyber security experts to render advice and training for the staff besides restoring the systems and digital assets with quick response in the event of cyber-attacks or breaches.

Some policies also provide additional benefits including contracting with public relations experts to mitigate the impact of cyber-attacks on the reputation of the enterprise, consumers' confidence especially in the event the institution is subject to extortion and requests for ransom to retrieve the customers' information/data or electronic systems.

Cyber risk insurance is crucial in the time being due to increased and sophisticated cyber-attacks which causes protection of information and data highly necessary to for sustainable business.

EXCHANGING EXPERTISE

Omani, Bahraini entrepreneurs to explore partnership at Products Exhibition



MANAMA: Activities of the 2nd Omani-Bahraini Products Exhibition will begin on May 29, in Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The opening ceremony will be held under the auspices of Jameel

Mohammed Al Humaidan, Bahraini Minister of Labour.

The exhibition is organised by the Omani-Bahraini Friendship Society and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in tOman.

Thirty exhibitors and entrepreneurs will showcase their products at the exhibition, which will display famous types of local perfumes, candy, fashion and food products, as well as other products

that express care for the environment and heritage. The exhibition provides an opportunity for exchanging expertise and establishing partnership among entrepreneurs in both countries. - ONA

PARTICIPATION

Omantel Innovation Labs partners with Comex to empower local startups

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omantel Innovation Labs announced its participation at Comex, Oman's leading technology and innovation exhibition. This collaboration aims to bolster the local startup ecosystem by providing crucial support, guidance, and resources to budding entrepreneurs in Oman.

During Comex, Omantel Innovation Labs will host a dedicated hour on the "TechStartup Stage" from 3-4 pm each day of the event. During this hour, expert mentors will impart valuable knowledge on specialized topics, offering insights crucial for startup success. This initiative will be complemented by dedicated startup clinics at the Omantel Innovation Labs booth (OMANTEC-A3), where mentors and the Omantel Innovation Labs team will provide one-on-one support to local startups.

HH Al Sayyida Ghada Al Said, Senior Manager at Omantel Innovation Labs, stated, "We're delighted to be working with the Comex team to provide mentorship and guidance to Oman's startup ecosystem. Comex provides an excellent platform to reach entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs, raise awareness of what is available to them through Omantel Innovation Labs and equip them with the right information to increase their probability of success."

Entrepreneurial landscape

Workshops will be open to all Comex attendees and will cover a range of topics relevant to today's entrepreneurial landscape. Amr Baabood, CEO of Arabian Research Bureau - the organizing company of Comex; Global Technology Show, added, "Omantel Innovation Labs is one of the most prominent entities supporting local startups in

Oman, and we're delighted to partner with them to extend that support through Comex TECH Startup Pavilion. We look forward to seeing many Omani startups benefit from this engagement and using the knowledge shared to enhance our local startup ecosystem."

The first day will kick off on Monday, May 27, with an overview of the Omantel Innovation Labs, where seasoned startup mentors Saif Al Maamari and Haider Al Zaabi will introduce available programs and initiatives, talk through the startup selection process, startup eligibility and the opportunities for funding with Omantel Innovation Labs.

On Day 2, serial entrepreneur Hussain Haji deliver a workshop on "Navigating the Entrepreneurial Path," where he'll draw from his extensive experience as an entrepreneur with successful exits to provide insights on how to tackle

early challenges, develop sustainable business models, and identify key factors for successful business exits. The workshop will highlight the value of mentorship and its effective uses for business success. Participants of this session will gain valuable knowledge and skills necessary to navigate their entrepreneurial journey and achieve their business objectives.

AI principles

Day 3 will feature Ameen Al Tajer, the founder and CEO of Infinite-ware, an AI powerhouse that caters to global giants, where he'll deliver a session titled "Using AI to Accelerate Your Startup Journey". In this workshop, Ameen will advise entrepreneurs on how to use AI to enhance their entrepreneurial endeavours. The session will cover key AI principles, their importance to startups, and practical uses in various fields. Attendees will learn

to create and apply AI-driven strategies to improve decision-making and business results. The workshop will also offer insights into the AI ecosystem, including available tools, platforms, and resources for startup AI initiatives.

On the final day, Nelio Leone will deliver "Growth 101 for Scaling Ventures". Nelio is a full stack growth marketer whose strategies skyrocketed startups to unicorn status, most notably transforming Careem into a multi-billion-dollar powerhouse that caught Uber's eye for a staggering \$3.1 billion acquisition. Post-Careem, he embraced the digital nomad lifestyle, enhancing his growth hacking skills and propelling the laundry service Washmen to secure a multi-million-dollar Series B. Today, Nelio dedicates his expertise to mentoring startups, helping them craft marketing strategies that are not only innovative but also drive sub-

stantial business growth.

Marketing strategies

This workshop will equip participants with critical growth marketing strategies for effectively scaling their ventures. By leveraging Nelio's vast expertise, attendees will gain an understanding of basic growth marketing principles and learn how to devise creative, high-impact marketing strategies.

Each mentor will be available at the Omantel Innovation Labs booth, located in the startup zone, right after their talks to provide personalised mentorship to Comex visitors, supporting startups to advance their ventures and learn about Omantel Innovation Labs' various programmes and investment opportunities.

The Omantel Innovation Labs booth will also feature Omani startups from its investment portfolio and the latest cohort.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Oman Flour Mills, up 3.11 per cent, was the top gainer while Dhofar Generating, down 6.49 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,805.70 points, up by 0.06 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.20 per cent at 455.16 points. Oman Flour Mills, up 3.11 per cent, was the top gainer while Dhofar Generating, down 6.49 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Liva Group were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 552 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR14.11 million, with more than 43.12 million shares changing hands. Out of 46 traded securities, 10 advanced, 17 declined, and 19 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR107,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR62,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR45,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,866.60 points, up 0.02 per cent. Prices of Bank Dhofar, Al Madina Takaful were up by 1.97 per cent, 1.25 per cent respectively. Prices of United Finance, Al Anwar

Investment, Oman Arab Bank, Bank Muscat were down by 1.70 per cent, 1.12 per cent, 0.69 per cent, 0.39 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,907.96 points, up 0.07 per cent. Prices of Oman Flour Mills, Gulf Mushroom Products, Al Maha Ceramics, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Packaging were up by 3.11 per cent, 1.35 per cent, 0.59 per cent, 0.56 per cent, 0.48 per cent respectively. Prices of Raysut Cement, Jazeera Steel Products, A'Saffa Foods, Galfar Engineering, Voltamp Energy were down by 2.38 per cent, 1.40 per cent, 1.00 per cent, 0.61 per cent, 0.35 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.05 per cent before closing at 1,800.03 points. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Oman Education & Training, SMN Power Holding were up by 2.00 per cent, 0.98 per cent, 0.61 per cent respectively. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Salalah Port Services, Phoenix Power, Al Suwadi Power, Oman Telecom were down by 6.49 per cent, 1.96 per cent, 1.67 per cent, 1.27 per cent, 0.47 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,805.70	4,782.76	4,805.70	4,802.71	2.99	0.06	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,866.60	7,827.35	7,866.60	7,865.32	1.28	0.02	
Industry Index	5,917.12	5,873.13	5,907.96	5,903.78	4.19	0.07	
Services Index	1,802.30	1,795.51	1,800.03	1,800.85	-0.82	-0.05	
MSX Shariah Index	455.16	454.12	455.16	454.27	0.89	0.20	
MSX TRI INDEX	6,668.10	6,636.27	6,668.10	6,663.95	4.15	0.06	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,917.49	8,872.99	8,917.49	8,916.03	1.45	0.02	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,826.95	6,776.20	6,816.39	6,811.56	4.83	0.07	
SERVICES TR IDX	2,082.52	2,074.67	2,079.89	2,080.84	-0.95	-0.05	
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	0.00	0.00	
Trading Summary							
Volume	.....	Turnover	.....	Trades	.....	Market Cap	.....
43,124,496	.....	14,106,854	.....	552	.....	24,448,942,379	.....
				Up	.....	Down	.....
				10	.....	17	.....
				Equal	.....	Sec. Traded	.....
				19	.....		.....

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, MAY 26

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. RD	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFR	PAV VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	45,000	4,574	5	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.100	0.002	2.000	0.102	0.102	0.102	97,368,339
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	1,221	69	1	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.001	1.250	0.081	0.080	0.085	0.100	14,175,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	50,410	9,071	6	0.180	0.180	0.179	0.180	0.001	0.559	0.180	0.180	0.181	0.100	39,600,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	200,000	55,400	4	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.000	0.000	0.277	0.277	0.280	0.100	450,387,140
OM0000001681	OMAN EMBRATES HO	44,625	3,615	6	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.081	0.084	0.100	3,971,875
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	248,450	17,143	12	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.068	0.070	0.100	13,800,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	919,345	127,535	32	0.139	0.139	0.138	0.139	0.000	0.000	0.139	0.129	0.148	0.100	775,237,232
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	95,528	7,200	25	0.077	0.077	0.075	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.100	51,291,445
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	955,333	135,853	128	0.142	0.143	0.141	0.142	0.000	0.000	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.100	614,948,597
OM0000003968	COINDEO	141,822	42,561	23	0.300	0.301	0.299	0.300	0.001	-0.332	0.300	0.299	0.300	0.100	195,383,269
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	208,367	61,791	28	0.298	0.298	0.296	0.297	0.000	-0.001	0.296	0.297	0.296	0.100	228,749,400
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	339,260	87,556	19	0.259	0.260	0.258	0.259	0.000	-0.001	0.259	0.259	0.260	0.100	1,944,156,839
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	34,058	35,867	10	1.054	1.054	1.046	1.054	0.000	-0.006	1.054	1.055	1.050	0.100	790,500,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	12,000,099	4,680,039	2	0.390	0.395	0.390	0.395	0.000	-0.004	0.395	0.370	0.396	0.100	47,400,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	414,655	32,947	39	0.080	0.080	0.078	0.078	0.000	-0.001	0.078	0.077	0.079	0.100	55,723,695
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	15,793	4,459	6	0.285	0.285	0.281	0.281	0.000	-0.004	0.281	0.281	0.281	0.100	35,096,327
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	74,500	4,324	4	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.000	-0.001	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.100	20,655,383
Total	17	15,788,526	5,310,035	350											

Parallel Market

OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	63	29	1	0.464	0.464	0.464	0.464	0.450	0.014	3.111	0.464	0.450	0.464	0.100	73,080,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	30,756	4,767	2	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.152	0.003	1.974	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.100	464,434,473
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	4,946	1,104	4	0.222	0.225	0.222	0.225	0.003	0.000	1.351	0.225	0.222	0.225	0.100	10,297,305
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INV	1,750	907	1	0.518	0.518	0.518	0.518	0.000	0.000	0.975	0.518	0.518	0.545	0.100	36,260,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	152,100	50,497	9	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.000	0.000	0.606	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.100	66,370,019
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	96,606	16,897	16	0.169	0.170	0.169	0.170	0.169	0.001	0.582	0.170	0.167	0.170	0.100	5,350,000
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	5,788	1,215	2	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.209	0.001	0.478	0.210	0.000	0.210	0.100	6,811,531
OM0000001251	DHOFAR BEVERAGES	100	23	1	0.229	0.229	0.229	0.229	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.229	0.000	0.229	0.100	4,580,000
OM0000001289	COMPUTER STATIONERY INDUSTRY	1,170	304	1	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.260	0.000	0.260	0.100	2,600,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	61,961	2,932	5	0.047	0.048	0.047	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.047	0.048	0.100	14,743,034
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	4,500	369	7	0.089	0.089	0.075	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.073	0.081	0.100	6,885,000
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	8,952	841	2	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.092	0.094	0.100	1,541,046
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	8,000	2,000	6	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.250	0.254	0.100	15,301,068
OM0000003265	NATIONAL DETERGENT	1,000	750	3	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.000	0.000	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	332,805	36,076	16	0.108	0.109	0.107	0.108	0.108	0.000	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.100	241,590,927	
OM0000007043	LIVA GROUP	25,404,637	8,510,553	1	0.335	0.335	0.335	0.335	0.335	0.000	0.000	0.335	0.000	0.000	0.100	133,455,405
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	600	46	2	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.074	0.077	0.100	11,977,381
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	14,610	1,709	6	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.116	0.117	0.100	59,448,115
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	14,685	4,047	6	0.277	0.284	0.280	0.283	0.284	0.001	-0.352	0.283	0.279	0.285	0.100	23,098,978
OM0000005260	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	213,256	30,580	28	0.145	0.145	0.141	0.144	0.145	0.000	-0.690	0.143	0.144	0.145	0.100	32,883,904
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	213,256	30,580	28	0.145	0.145	0.141	0.144	0.145	0.000	-0.690	0.143	0.144	0.145	0.100	32,883,904
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	395,900	34,839	16	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	-0.001	-1.124	0.088	0.085	0.088	0.100	18,128,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	4,645	275	4	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.059	0.060	-0.001	-1.667	0.059	0.059	0.060	0.100	46,392,486
OM0000002339	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	658	197	1	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	-0.006	-1.961	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.100	53,953,297
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	3,900	287	4	0.072	0.075	0.072	0.072	0.077	0.005	-6.494	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.100	16,001,280
Total	25	27,095,928	8,754,595	175												

ECONOMY

India's GDP is \$3.95 trillion: Union Minister

CHANDIGARH: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri lauded the government's efforts to strengthen the Indian economy in the past 10 years under the Prime Minister-ship of Narendra Modi.

While speaking in Chandigarh on Sunday, Puri said, "As per the public data released by IMF, our GDP is \$3.95 trillion, and we are in the fifth

position. Japan is in the fourth position with a GDP of \$4.1 trillion. If our growth rate is going on at 7-8 per cent and Japan's is flat, it's a matter of a few months, if not a year, and our economy will reach fourth place."

Puri accused the Congress-led UPA government of ignoring investments in urban space. He said, "during the UPA government between

2004 and 2014, the expenditure on urban space was less than one lakh seventy thousand crores, and in the Modi government, in these 10 years, it has increased by 11-12 times to reach 18-19 lakh crores."

He said capital expenditure will increase in the coming time, which is already increasing by 30%.

In the interim budget, the union

government announced capital expenditures of over Rs 11 lakh crore, an increase of 11.1 per cent.

Pointing out the expansion of metro projects by the government, he highlighted that the total metro length is now 945 km and is expected to reach 1,000 km, after which the country will have the tag of second largest metro train system. —ANI

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AT COMEX

ahlibank showcases digital excellence and innovation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing efforts to support the digitalisation goals of the Sultanate of Oman, ahlibank participates as the main sponsor for the highly anticipated Comex 2024 event, Oman's official technology, communications, innovation, and digital transformation show.

The event is held from May 27 to 30 at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, where the bank is set to showcase its digital products and services, and its overarching digital journey in the country.

ahlibank's participation will feature its diverse portfolio of digital products and services, emphasising its dedication to empower the nation's economy through exceptional technological leaps.

This participation reaffirms ahlibank's commitment to in-



novation and excellence, which prompts it to constantly enhance its services to add value to its customers, as it seeks to remain at the forefront of digital transformation and excellence in services, which ensures its flexibility in light of the changing technological landscape.

ahlibank presents a host of digital solutions to its tech-savvy cus-

tomers, through its e-channels and mobile banking app. Moreover, ahliExpress, the bank's multi-functional kiosk for express banking services, offers a unique and secure banking experience. The kiosk is designed to provide round-the-clock services for both, existing and new customers, using state-of-the-art technology.

In alignment with Oman Vision 2040, Comex will encompass exemplary innovations, as it will present the latest pioneering technology to enhance efficiency and convenience from the tech sector. And moving forward, ahlibank will remain committed to its endeavours as being the 'Partner in Excellence' by adopting the latest advancements to better serve customers and the country, thereby embracing new technologies that promote growth and enhance accessibility.

COMEX

Omantel to showcase cutting-edge tech innovations with focus on AI, space tech

MUSCAT: Omantel will showcase its cutting-edge tech innovations at Comex 2024, with a strong focus on AI, space tech, and ICT solutions as a technology partner during Comex.

The Omantel booth will be a hub of innovation, highlighting the convergence of technology and human progress. Visitors can delve into AI-driven applications, explore the wonders of space tech, and learn about transformative ICT solutions. The theme resonates with Omantel's commitment to spearheading digital transformation in Oman.

Comex, the region's premier technology exhibition, takes place at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre from May 27 to 30 against the backdrop of Oman's outstanding performance in tech arena, with Oman's ICT market size estimated at \$5.47 billion in

2024. Among the subsidiaries, Omantel will put the spotlight on Oman Data Park, which is playing a pivotal role in data center services, cloud computing, and cybersecurity, in addition to Infoline and MERP.

Tadom's role as provider of Smart City and AI solutions, alongside Zain Tech, will also be highlighted, with solutions in Digital Twin, IoT platform (connecting cities through IoT sensors), Smart Building Solutions (IoT sensor alert, work order and energy efficiency), Smart Street lighting (remote controlling and energy efficiency) and AI-powered CCTV.

The Omantel booth will provide glimpses of its foray into space technology, including its partnership with ETLAQ, in which visitors will have the opportunity to learn about multi-

ple launch complexes that support various popular orbits, and discover how EtlAQ Spaceport will be the world's newest gateway to space.

According to Comex organisers, Oman's ICT market size is estimated at \$5.47 billion in 2024, and is expected to reach \$9.07 billion by 2029. This significant growth plays a pivotal role in the nation's economic diversification.

Omantel has succeeded, through the integration of its operations, processes, and extensive expertise in the field of communications and digital technology, in establishing its position as a leading telecommunications company within the Sultanate



LIFESTYLE

COFFEE PRICES SOAR ON POOR HARVESTS AND NEW CONSUMERS

Traditionally tea-drinking Asian countries are increasingly warming up to coffee, driving demand. Coffee prices are also getting a boost from climate change, which is affecting harvests.

Germans have been drinking coffee for almost four centuries now, with the beverage having gained wider popularity in the 19th century when consumption spread across all social classes. The beverage became deeply ingrained in German culture, leading to various coffee traditions and rituals, such as Kaffee und Kuchen — coffee and cake — in the afternoon.

After World War II, the coveted beans were even the preferred contraband of smugglers from the neighboring Netherlands.

It was not until the start of the so-called post-war economic miracle in the 1950s that the Germans could quench their thirst for coffee again.

Traders ‘navigating challenging conditions’

Now, more than 70 years after the war-induced coffee scarcity in Germany, retail coffee prices in Europe’s biggest economy are again significantly rising. Tchibo, Germany’s leading coffee retailer, says prices are not only on a tear in Germany, but around the globe.

In early May, the Hamburg-based company announced it would have to “adjust” its prices for roasted coffee. “Over the past year, many costs have continued to rise, including those for raw coffee. In order to continue to offer our customers the usual quality, we have to act now,” Tchibo said in a press release.

Fairly traded coffee is no exception to the global trend of rising prices. GEPA, Europe’s largest importer of fair-trade food from the Global South, reported a decline in sales earlier this year due to “customer restraint.”

“We are currently navigating an economically challenging situation,” GEPA’s managing director Matthias Kroth told Germany’s Evangelical Press Service, blaming high raw coffee and cocoa prices, as well as the negative effects of the Ukraine war on global supply chains.

CLIMATIC UNCERTAINTIES, DISRUPTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE ROUTES, AND THE SPECULATIVE NATURE OF MANY INVESTMENT PORTFOLIOS HAVE “CREATED A PERFECT STORM IN THE COFFEE MARKET”.

Andrea Fütterer, head of the Policy and Advocacy at GEPA, is notably concerned about the current wild swings in market prices and attributes them to the widespread coffee monocultures that make plantations vulnerable to drought or excessive rainfall in the wake of climate change.

‘Perfect storm’ hits global coffee markets

On the other side, coffee farmers in developing countries are also increasingly feeling the negative impact of climate change.

Fairtrade International, an umbrella organization representing farmers and cooperatives in producing countries, told DW that unfavorable weather conditions, especially in Southeast Asia and South America, currently upset the “delicate balance between supply and demand” and are driving prices higher.

“Long droughts in Vietnam, the main producer of robusta beans, have damaged the plants. Meanwhile, Brazil, the main source of arabica beans, suffers from heavy rains affecting the harvest,” Fairtrade International said in an email to DW.

It concludes that climatic uncertainties, disruptions in international trade routes, and the speculative nature of many investment portfolios have “created a perfect storm in the coffee market.”

Brazil on the bright side of trade

Carsten Fritsch, a commodities analyst with Germany’s Commerzbank, says emerging geopolitical conflicts and existing wars are currently overshadowing markets worldwide. The specialist for so-called soft commodities like food and beverages has analyzed coffee markets recently.

“Arabica, unlike robusta, is hardly affected by transport disruptions through the Red Sea, as the major arabica producers don’t use this route. It’s a different story for robusta coffee, predominantly produced in Southeast Asia,” Fritsch told DW.

As a result of the surge in the price of robusta coffee, the price of arabica beans will also increase, he added, boosting earnings of growers in Brazil, which produces 80% of the world’s arabica coffee.

Moreover, the Brazilian coffee authority is expecting a bumper harvest for the 2024/25 season, with 5.5% higher yields compared with the previous year and a total output of about 58.1 million 60-kilogram (132-pound) bags — 40.75 million bags of arabica coffee and 17.33 million bags of robusta.

Coffee roasters sit on the fence

Despite expectations of a good harvest in Brazil, Steffen Schwarz expects coffee prices to continue rising on the global markets.

The owner of a German roasting company believes price pressure will also come from a shortage of seasonal laborers on coffee plantations and further rising consumption in the growing countries themselves.

“We have lower yields, a labor shortage, and at the same time, rising demand,” he explained in an interview with the German news magazine Spiegel recently, noting that drinking coffee has become a lifestyle trend beyond the popular “barista culture” of the United States and Europe.

More and more Asians, especially in China and South Korea, are developing a liking for coffee, he said, causing global demand and prices to continue rising.

He believes that people should be willing to pay at least between €20 (\$21) and €30 per kilogram if they “really cherish good taste and care about the ecological and social aspects” of coffee growing. -nw

SPORTS

OLYMPIC MEDALLIST

PV Sindhu suffers defeat in Malaysia Masters final against China's Wang Zhiyi

Kuala Lumpur [Malaysia]: Indian shuttler and two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu conceded a defeat in the final match of the Malaysia Masters competition against China's Wang Zhiyi on Sunday.

The Indian shuttler lost to her Chinese opponent 21-16, 5-21, and 16-21 in the final match of the women's singles.

Sindhu started the final game on a good note and dominated the first set as she won it by 21-16. In the second set, the Chinese made a comeback in the game and didn't give Sindhu a chance to clinch points. Zhiyi won the second set by 5-21. In the final set, Zhiyi had the last laugh of the game as she beat Sindhu by 16-21.

Earlier on Saturday, Sindhu defeated Busanan Ongbamrungphan 13-21, 21-16, 21-12 in the semifinal match of the women's singles to confirm her place in the final.

This final also marked her first final of a tournament since the 2023 Spain Masters.

Sindhu moved to the semifinals on Friday after beating China's world number 6 shuttler Han Yue in the quarterfinal round. She defeated her Chinese opponent 13-21, 21-14 and 12-21 in a match that lasted for 55 minutes.

Earlier in the tournament, the Indian women's doubles duo of Simran Singh and Ritika Thaker lost their second-round match 21-17, 21-11 to the Malaysian pair of Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan.

In the other pre-quarterfinals clash, the Indian women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gay-



atri Gopichand crashed out of the competition as well, losing to the Chinese Taipei pair of Yu Chien Hui and Sung Shuo Yun by 18-21, 22-20, 14-21.

The Malaysia Masters is being held from May 21 to 26 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It is a Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour Super 500 level tournament. PV Sindhu has captured the women's singles title in the competition twice in 2013 and 2016, while Saina Nehwal secured the title in 2017.

HS Prannoy also won the title as he beat Weng Hongyang of China by 21-19, 13-21, 21-18 in the final last year. -ANI

United edge past City 2-1 in Manchester derby to clinch 13th FA Cup

At the half-time, the Red Devils were 2-0 up against their arch-rivals Manchester City

LONDON: Manchester United pulled off an incredible upset as they defeated Manchester City 2-1 to win their 13th FA Cup at Wembley on Saturday.

This clash was a rematch of last year's final, which City won 2-1, with Saturday's win serving as sweet revenge for United coach Erik Ten Hag, whose future at Old Trafford remains uncertain.

Alejandro Garnacho scored the first goal in the 30th minute after capitalising on a mistake by Josko Gvardiol and goalkeeper Stefan Ortega, while young sensation Kobbie Mainoo scored the second in the 39th minute.

At the half-time, the Red Devils were 2-0 up against their arch-rivals City.

City, who won the Premier League title for the fourth time in a row last week, were out of



rhythm in the game, with chances they would typically convert going begging. Erling Haaland came closest in the second half, hitting

the crossbar, before Kyle Walker's tumbling effort was saved by United goalie Andre Onana.

In the end, the Blues managed

to bring one goal back as Jeremy Doku scored in the 87th minute, which proved too late for the reigning champs. -ANI

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Real Madrid draw, as Dovbyk wins top scorer and Unai Simon best keeper

MADRID: Real Madrid prepared for next weekend's Champions League final with a 0-0 draw at home to Betis.

With the title in the bag and nothing to play for, Carlo Ancelotti used the game to rotate his side to try and have his players in the best shape for next Saturday's match against Borussia Dortmund, but the fact Thibaut Courtois played over an hour in goal, with Andriy Lunin didn't get a single minute, could be a pointer for the big final.

Nico Williams scored midway through the second half to give Athletic Club Bilbao a 1-0 win away to Rayo Vallecano in Rayo's centenary game.

Nico took advantage of great work from Alex Berenguer down the left in the 66th minute, just after Athletic had substituted goalkeeper Unai Simon after he had gone 60 minutes without conceding a goal, to guarantee to win this season's 'Zamora' trophy for the best goalkeeper.

Relegated Almeria said goodbye to La Liga in style as they won 6-1 at home to Cadiz, whose relegation



was confirmed last weekend.

Sergio Arribas and Luis Suarez both scored twice, while Gonzalo Melero added an own goal did for

Cadiz, who had taken a first-half lead through Brian Ocampo.

Girona got the last round of games of the season underway on

Friday with a 7-0 demolition of Granada, whose coach Jose Ramon Sandoval announced he was quitting as coach before the game. He criticized players' attitude at the already-relegated club.

Artem Dovbyk scored a hat-trick to take his tally of league goals to 24 for the season and give him a one-goal lead over Alexander Sorloth, who was unable to overtake him in Villarreal's 1-1 draw away to Osasuna after suffering a first-half injury.

Ante Budimir put Osasuna ahead with his 17th goal of the season, with Jose Luis Morales leveling in the 57th minute, to see Jagoba Arrasate end his successful spell as Osasuna coach with a draw.

Atletico Madrid ended their season with a 2-0 win away to Real Sociedad thanks to an eighth-minute goal from Samuel Lino and an injury-time strike from Reinildo Mandava, which ended Real Sociedad keeper Alex Remino's chance of ending the season with the best goalkeeping record.

-Xinhua

T20I



Buttler and Archer shine as England beat Pakistan by 23 runs

BIRMINGHAM : A fine half-century from skipper Jos Buttler and fine spells from pacers Reece Topley and comeback man Jofra Archer powered England to a 23-run win over Pakistan in the second T20I at Birmingham on Saturday.

With this win, England take a 1-0 lead in the four-match series. The first game was washed out by rain.

Put to batting first by Pakistan, England lost the in-form opener Phil Salt for just 13 to Pakistan's returning all-rounder Imad Wasim, with Shaheen Afridi taking a fine catch at long-on. (25/1).

Following this, the power-packed duo of Will Jacks and Buttler took the innings forward, unleashing a barrage of fours and sixes against Pakistan bowling. At the end of the powerplay, England was 53/1 in six overs.

Buttler and Jacks continued the carnage, bringing England to 96/1 after 10 overs. The 71-run partnership between Buttler and Jacks ended with Jacks being caught by Shadab Khan for 37 in 23 balls, with four boundaries and two sixes. England was 96/2 in 10.1 overs.

England reached the 100-run mark in 11.5 overs.

Following this, another promising partnership took place between Jonny Bairstow and

Buttler, which was cut short at 48 runs after Shaheen removed Bairstow for 21 in 18 balls, with a four and two sixes. England was 144/3 in 15 overs.

After this, England could not really get those big hits that much as wickets kept falling. Buttler was dismissed for 84 in 51 balls, with eight fours and three sixes as the fifth man to go by Haris. Pakistan made a solid comeback to restrict England to 183/7 in their 20 overs.

Shaheen Shah Afridi (3/36) and Haris Rauf (2/34) shined with the ball for Pakistan.

In the run-chase, Pakistan lost openers Mohammed Rizwan and Saim Ayub early, reduced to 14/2. Leaving aside a 53-run partnership between skipper Babar Azam (32 in 26 balls, with four boundaries) and Fakhar Zaman (45 in 21 balls, with five fours and three sixes) and a 40-run stand between Iftikhar Ahmed (23 in 17 balls, with four and two sixes) and Imad Wasim (22 in 13 balls, with two fours and a six), Pakistan just could not keep going and were bundled out for 160 runs in 19.2 overs.

Topley (3/41) and Archer (2/28) were the top bowlers for England. Moeen Ali also got two wickets.

Buttler secured the Player of the Match title. -ANI

PRAISE BOWLERS

Didn't finish well: Pakistan skipper Babar Azam on loss against England

BIRMINGHAM : Following his side's 23-run loss against England in the 2nd T20I match of the series at Edgbaston, Pakistan skipper Babar Azam said they didn't finish well in the game.

Babar displayed an average performance in the second inning of the match. He scored 32 runs from 26 balls at a strike rate of 123.08. He hammered 4 fours during his time on the crease.

Speaking after the match, Babar showered praise on the bowlers and said they performed very well in the game. He added that there was only one big partnership between the skipper and Fakhar Zaman and later no batters could make it.

"It was a par score, our bowlers bowled very well. In the batting, there were moments, but we didn't finish well. Small partnership between me and Fakhar and later on, there was no big partnership," Babar said.

He added that everyone in the team is very flexible and knows



their role. He added that if Fakhar and him continued on the field then the result could have been different.

"We are flexible, everyone

knows their role. We have decided each player's role. If you are not in good form, we are flexible. The way Fakhar dominated after wickets fell ... if me and Fakhar had bat-

ted for three more overs, it would have been a different ball game," he added.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam overtook India captain Rohit Sharma to become the second leading run-scorer in T20Is. Babar achieved the landmark during Pakistan's 2nd T20I match against England at Edgbaston.

Babar displayed an average performance in the second inning of the match on Saturday. He scored 32 runs from 26 balls at a strike rate of 123.08 and etched his name on the record book. He hammered 4 fours but his efforts could not help the Men in Green clinch a win.

In the T20Is, Rohit played 151 matches and 143 innings where he scored 3974 runs at a strike rate of 139.97. While Babar scored 3987 runs at a strike rate of 129.91 after taking part in 118 matches and 111 innings. Only India talisman batter Virat Kohli stands ahead of Rohit and Babar. Kohli is currently the highest run scorer in T20Is with 4037 runs. -ANI

BankDhofar expands branch network to reach 121 branches

The first is located in Muscat close to the National Museum and the second one at Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos, while the third branch is in Al Khoud 6th

MUSCAT: BankDhofar, a leading financial institution in the Sultanate of Oman, recently opened 3 branches in Muscat Governorate taking the total network to 121 branches. The first is located in Muscat close to the National Museum and the second one at Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos, while the third branch is in Al Khoud 6th with the aim of providing banking services to all



customers across segments, especially entrepreneurs and “Al-Riadah” account customers. By expanding the branch network in all governorates, BankDhofar seeks to be closer to customers and build a deep relationship with customers, retain them, and provide the best products at exceptional service, as well as allowing them to complete their banking transactions all time through the mobile banking application and the digital channels.

With the opening of these branches, BankDhofar has 121 branches distributed throughout the Sultanate of Oman. In addition to 350 ATMs, multi-use cash deposit machines, and multi-service interactive machines. The branch at the National Museum is a testament preserving Omani heritage while providing modern banking solutions. The official opening ceremony of the National Museum branch was held



under the patronage of HE Jamal Hassan Al-Moussawi, Secretary-General of the Museum. Through Madinat Sultan Al Qaboos, the bank is catering to the vibrant community of affluent individuals and families. The branch provides a range of specialized services, including wealth management Al Riadah priority bank customers. This branch was opened under the patronage of Mohamed bin Awad Al-Rawas, Member

of the State Council. “Al Khoud branch is strategically positioned to support the thriving SME sector in the area. Recognising the importance of small businesses as drivers of economic growth and aligning to Vision 2040, the branch opening will aid to empower entrepreneurs and SMEs to succeed. It was opened under the patronage of Ali bin Mansour Al-Amri,” said Member of the Shura Council, representa-

tive of Seeb. Through the mobile banking application, BankDhofar allows customers to manage their accounts, Bill Payments, Money Transfer, and invest in a variety of financial products. The bank also provides an easy online account opening service, in addition to allowing new customers to open new savings accounts without the need to visit the branch through the bank’s “Intilaaqah” application, and instant transfer to any other bank in the Sultanate of Oman, 24/7. The bank recently launched “Dhofar-Pay”, a service the bank provides to customers that allows them to pay via smart phones easily and safely without the need to use a direct debit card. Bank Dhofar is also the first bank in the Sultanate of Oman and the Middle East to implement cash recycling technology, and the second largest bank in the Sultanate of Oman in terms of the number of branches. Last year, 2023, the bank achieved the highest operating income in 7 years, with OMR78 million, and net profits amounting to OMR38 million.

EMPOWERING SMES



Zubair EDC team visits Janain Al Hamra School

MUSCAT: The Zubair Enterprises Development Centre (Zubair EDC) team, in collaboration with representatives from the Private Schools Department and early education supervisors, recently visited Janain Al Hamra School in Wilayat Al Hamra, Al Dakhiliyah Governorate. This visit is part of Zubair EDC's strategy to empower small and medium enterprises (SMEs), aiming to support their growth and sustainability. The visit also provided an opportunity to review the significant achievements of Janain Al Hamra School in recent years. Kadhiya Hamid Al Nabhani, the founder and director of Janain Al Hamra School, has been an active member of Zubair EDC. Her exceptional performance led to her selection for the Direct Support Program in its third edition. Janain Al Hamra School is recognized as a prominent project with substantial societal impact in the education sector. Kadhiya Al Nabhani expressed her gratitude, stating, “First of all,

we thank Zubair EDC for its continued support for the success of my private project. We will strive to continue developing what Janain Al Hamra offers to provide an attractive educational environment for students.” Ali Shaker, Advisor and Head of Business Development and Partnerships at the Zubair Enterprises Development Centre, commented, “This visit is an opportunity to witness the project's development years after Kadhiya Al Nabhani joined Zubair EDC and was selected among the winners of the Direct Support Program. Kadhiya joined Zubair EDC at the beginning of her business project, and through her efforts and the efforts of the school's management, a plot of land was allocated to build a model school with integrated facilities. We at Zubair EDC are proud of Kadhiya Al Nabhani's success story and look forward to seeing other entrepreneurs benefit from the experiences of the Zubair EDC members and the services we provide.”

ENHANCING REGIONAL HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Aster Royal Al Raffah hospital launches Advanced Stroke Unit and 24x7 Urgent Care Programme

MUSCAT: Aster Royal Al Raffah Hospital, part of the GCC's leading integrated healthcare provider Aster DM Healthcare FZC, announced the launch of the Aster Stroke Unit and Aster Urgent Care 24x7 programme. Located in Al Ghubra, Muscat, the hospital is set to significantly enhance its regional healthcare services with these new facilities. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Dr. Ahmed Salim Saif Al Mandhari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Planning and Health Organisation, The Sultanate of Oman, who officially opened the new units in the presence of esteemed guests including Dr. Sherbaz Bichu, Group CEO, Aster Hospitals & Clinics, UAE, Oman & Bahrain; Shailesh Guntu, CEO of Aster Hospitals & Clinics, Oman; and Dr. Ali Al Balushi, Vascular Neurologist and Neuro-endovascular Surgeon, Aster Royal Al Raffah Hospital, Oman. Aster Royal Al Raffah Hospital is now the first private hospital in the region to receive approval from the Ministry of Health for operating a dedicated Stroke Unit. This unit will be spearheaded by the renowned stroke specialist, Dr. Ali Al Balushi. The unit, based on the principles of ‘BE FAST’—Balance, Eyes, Face, Arms, Speech, Time—occupies the third floor of the hospital and is equipped with cutting-edge infrastructure and 24/7 availability of stroke care specialists, ensuring a systematic and efficient treatment pathway for all stroke patients. The newly launched Aster Urgent Care 24x7 programme is dedicated to providing prompt and efficient emergency care, ensuring that patients receive the urgent attention necessary to maximise their chances of a swift and successful recovery. Staffed by highly skilled clinicians and medical pro-



fessionals, this unit is equipped to handle a broad spectrum of emergencies, offering rapid assessment, stabilisation, and life-saving interventions, while seamlessly coordinating with all departments within the hospital to deliver comprehensive care around the clock. The departments include Cardio & Interventional Cardiology, Neurology, Gastro GI Bleed, Interventional Radiology, Urology, Nephrology, Emergency Team, Anesthesia, Ortho & Spine (to handle polytrauma), Hand Surgery, and Vascular. Additionally, the Aster Urgent Care 24x7 program includes ambulance services to ensure that critical patients are transported swiftly and safely to receive immediate care. Ahmed Al Mandhari praised Aster DM Healthcare for establishing these advanced facilities, stating, “We commend Aster for establishing an advanced Stroke Unit and an Urgent Care 24x7 service. These units will serve as invaluable resources for our community, effectively managing surgical and trauma emergencies within the critical golden hour.” Dr. Sherbaz Bichu emphasised the importance of timely medical interventions, noting, “With a focus on advanced medical techniques and patient-centered care, we are poised to raise the bar in healthcare excellence. Time is of the essence

for stroke victims, with each passing minute resulting in the loss of vital brain cells. Prompt treatment is crucial to preserve these cells, save lives, and enhance recovery outcomes. This is the driving force behind our launch of the Stroke and Urgent Care 24x7 program, enabling us to deliver specialized, life-saving care effectively to the people of Oman to ensure quality of life is restored. Our goal is to improve outcomes and enhance the quality of life for those affected by stroke, and this new facility is a crucial step towards achieving that vision.” Dr. Ali Al Balushi expressed pride in the advancements, stating, “The Stroke Unit at Aster Royal Al Raffah Hospital represents the latest stride in Oman's ongoing innovation in stroke care and emergency neurologic support, aimed at saving and enhancing lives. Similarly, the introduction of Aster Urgent Care 24x7 exemplifies Aster's commitment to providing immediate and critical care around the clock, ensuring that every patient receives the best possible chance at recovery.” Shailesh Guntu shared his enthusiasm, saying, “We are thrilled to be Oman's first private hospital to establish a stroke unit and equally pleased to launch the Urgent Care 24x7 program. These initiatives set a new standard in medical care within the region and highlight

our dedication to advancing healthcare services accessible around the clock. Through these critical developments, we are enhancing our capability to respond swiftly and effectively to any medical emergency, ensuring the highest level of care for our community.” As part of the launch of Aster Urgent Care 24x7, a conference was hosted at the Intercity Hotel Muscat. This important event served as a cornerstone in emergency care, focusing on critical, life-threatening conditions. The conference featured insights from leading medical experts across Oman, showcased best practices from various medical fields, and offered unparalleled networking opportunities with healthcare professionals. Clinicians and doctors from the departments of cardiology, neurology, gastroenterology, critical care, and trauma, all of whom will support Aster Urgent Care 24x7, were in attendance as speakers and panelists. Equipped with cutting-edge technology to deliver the highest standard of care, Aster Royal Al Raffah Hospital, located in Muscat and boasting a 175-bed capacity across 25,000 square meters, is a hallmark of healthcare excellence and innovation not just in Oman but throughout the Middle East. The hospital is equipped with the latest technology and includes specialized centers such as a Cathlab for advanced cardiac care, an interventional radiology center, an advanced urology center (home to Oman's first Thulium Laser), a dialysis unit with CRRT, a neurosciences center, a sports medicine and orthopedics center, interventional gastroenterology, advanced therapeutic endoscopy, and a comprehensive center for women and child health. The dedicated team includes more than 150 doctors and 300 nurses.

RECOGNITION

OAAAQA accredits International College of Engineering and Management

MUSCAT: The OAAAQA has now completed an Institutional Standards Reassessment (ISR I) of International College of Engineering and Management (ICEM). This was carried out in accordance with the OAAAQA Institutional Standards Assessment Manual and its Addendum: Institutional Standards Reassessment (ISR), dated February 2018. ICEM's ISA results were approved (on probation) by the OAAAQA Board on 27 December 2020 and the college was placed on probation for one year. ICEM submitted an ISR I Application on 27 July 2023 and a panel was formed to undertake the reassessment process; this comprised experienced locally-based and international external reviewers. **Review** During the visit, which took place from November 13 – 16, 2023 the panel spoke with more than 93 people, including representatives of the governing authorities, staff, students and external stakeholders. The panel also reviewed a range of additional materials.

The OAAAQA Board approved the resulting ISR I (First Attempt) Report on 22 May 2024 and the College has received a copy of that report. This report will not be made publicly available but will be circulated as a confidential document to OAAAQA Board Members and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. **Ranks** The ICEM ISR I resulted in an Accreditation Outcome of ‘Accredited’. ICEM now joins the ranks of other HEIs already accredited by OAAAQA.

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AY 2024-2025

Grand investiture ceremony at Indian School Bousher

MUSCAT: Indian School Bousher celebrated a momentous occasion with the grand Investiture ceremony on May 13, marking a significant milestone for the newly appointed Student Council members. The event was attended by Captain Harish Shrinivasan, Defence Advisor, Indian Embassy, Oman who honoured the ceremony as the chief guest. The ceremony commenced with a warm welcome to all dignitaries and attendees, followed by the traditional lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the dispelling of darkness and the ushering in of knowledge and wisdom. Raja



Jaya Balan, President of the School Management Committee (SMC), Indian School Bousher, along with Dr. Sayed Fazlur Rahman, SMC and Shanmugam Purushothaman, SMC, were among the notable dignitaries who attended the event, adding to the grandeur of the occa-

sion. The Principal, Prabakaran P, extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest, dignitaries, faculty, parents, and staff. The highlight of the ceremony was the investiture of the Student Council members. Captain Harish Shrinivasan ceremoniously invested them with badges, symbolising their official roles and responsibilities. In his address, Captain Harish Shrinivasan emphasised the importance of leadership and responsibility. He congratulated the Student Council members and encouraged them to lead by example.

ROUND-UP

MHD ACERE unveils all-new MG 7 luxury sedan in Sultanate of Oman

The MG 7 offers cutting-edge race mode capabilities, complemented by luxurious details including a sleek aerodynamic design and integrated motorsport seats

MUSCAT: MG Motor has announced the launch of its all-new MG7 sedan in Oman representing a significant expansion of the British-born brand's carline-up, the MG7 exudes sophistication with its striking design, cutting-edge technology, and performance-driven features.

Equipped with a choice of 1.5 Land 2.0L Turbo petrol engines, the all-new MG7 promises an exhilarating driving experience and will be available to customers across Oman from May 24.

Prices for the new MG 7 start from OMR 8999, ensuring the new model offers remarkable value for its class while combining economy, style, and performance with innovative features. Additionally, customers will benefit from a generous 6-year/200,000 km manufacturer's warranty, providing exceptional peace of mind.

Mohsin Hani Bahrani, CEO MHD ACERE, said: "We are excited to introduce the new MG 7 the first-ever large sedan in the MG lineup, to the Oman market. This vehicle embodies MG's dedication to innovation and excellence, offering cutting-edge race mode capabilities for an exhilarating drive. Its sleek aerodynamic design and integrated motorsport



seats set a new standard for luxury and comfort."

He also remarked, "This launch marks a significant milestone for MHD ACERE, reinforcing our commitment to bringing advanced automotive technology and design to our customers in Oman. We believe the MG 7 will redefine the driving experience and exceed our customers' expectations."

Tom Lee, Managing Director of MG Motor Middle East, said, "In response to evolving customer preferences, we've expanded our offering with the introduction of the first-ever large sedan from MG Motor equipped with sports features. This reflects our commitment to providing a car that excels on the road and embodies a state-of-the-art look and feel. The MG 7 perfectly blends ad-



vanced driving features and a sleek style, making it the ideal choice for customers seeking a dynamic driving experience."

The MG 7 introduces to the MG lineup the first-ever large sedan, meticulously engineered for precision and elegance. It is complemented by a streamlined aerodynamic design that ensures it stands out on the road, while seamlessly merging sophistication with style. Elevating its appearance even further, the top three models feature sporty red calipers and 19-inch wheels, enhancing the vehicle's dynamic look.

The eye-catching design elements continue inside the cabin where you are greeted with Storm Eye integrated motorsport seats, meticulously designed for ergonomic support. The top trim model features seats crafted with luxury silk Napa leather, microfibre suede, and European textured



features, the MG 7 offers a wide range of active safety features, ensuring peace of mind on the road for all occupants. Among the advanced driver-assistance systems available, depending on the model, are Front Collision Warning, Emergency Lane Keep System, and Adaptive Cruise Control.

The 1.5L Turbo MG 7 features a 7-speed dual-clutch transmission, offering 188HP. Coming in DEL and STD trims, the STD trim is equipped with a PVC foaming steering wheel and rear cameras, while the DEL boasts a leather steering wheel and a 360-degree camera. The DEL model also offers a panoramic sunroof, which can be adjusted using the smart key.

On the other hand, the 2.0L Turbo variant comes with a 9-speed automatic transmission, providing seamless power delivery. Available in COM and G.DEL trims, the 2.0L variant offers 261HP. The G.DEL trim includes a panoramic sunroof, also operable via the smart key with the added convenience of an electric tailgate function and an active retractable tail fin, enhancing its sporty appearance. The COM trim features a leather steering wheel, while the G.DEL offers a premium Napa Leather wheel. Additionally, the COM model is equipped with a rear-view camera, whereas the highest trim G.DEL model features a 360-degree camera for enhanced visibility.

piping for added sophistication and an elevated feel. The driver's seat offers convenient 6-way electric adjustment for personalised comfort and ease of manoeuvre.

This level of comfort extends to the driving capabilities of the MG7, with features that have been designed to elevate the experience behind the wheel. Depending on the trim, drivers can enjoy features including a speed dial and super-sport mode button conveniently located on the steering wheel, providing an immersive X-mode racing experience tailored for precision driving. Its 10.25-inch front screen complemented by a 12.3-inch infotainment display caters for an immersive drive. The top-tier model comes equipped with a premium Bose sound system, featuring 9 speakers and central point virtual sound technology allowing for an exceptional listener experience.

In addition to its technological

STATEMENT PIECES

Mona El Shanawany jewellery opens first store in Muscat



MUSCAT: Mona El Shanawany jewellery marked a thrilling night on May 21 at City Center Muscat, celebrating the grand opening of store in Oman through a momentous event; a beginning of a new chapter for the brand.

The grand opening ceremony was a resounding success, attended by guests, fashion enthusiasts and VIP members of the local community. The event featured an exclusive look into the brand's latest collection that

redefines how women embrace diamond jewellery, accompanied by an interactive itinerary.

Located in the vibrant city of Muscat, the store offers a luxurious shopping experience with a wide range of meticulously designed and crafted statement diamond pieces: necklaces, rings, bracelets and earrings, combining timeless elegance with contemporary styles, ensuring there is a piece for every woman.

"We are happy to open our doors & welcome everyone to our new space, following our enthusiastic opening night. We made a promise to bring something different to the market and here we are, you have to visit the store and live the experience yourself," said Mona El Shanawany.

The store enables you to have a personalised experience and discover the pieces that best suit your style and occasion, from casual hangouts to fancy evenings.

WORKSHOP

Alizz Islamic Bank hosts MoH delegation of doctors



MUSCAT: Under the umbrella of the bank's 'Alizz Cares', Alizz Islamic Bank recently hosted a delegation of doctors and medical industry professionals from the Ruwi Medical Centre, Wilayat Matrah - Ministry of Health (MoH) to conduct a workshop on the early detection of breast cancer at the bank's head office in Wilayat Baushar.

The workshop aimed to introduce the services provided at the pre-marriage clinic and the breast cancer early detection clinic. The workshop included several lectures focusing on the National Registry Program and the Early Detection Clinic Program at the Ministry of Health. Statistics

on breast cancer and the role of healthy food in avoiding the disease were also discussed.

In addition to finding ways to raise awareness and urge women to perform regular check-ups to aid with the early detection of breast cancer.

Touching upon hosting the delegation from the Ministry of Health, Lina Al Abdulsalaam, Head of Marketing & Communications at Alizz Islamic Bank said "One of our key values in the bank is for us to be collaborative in our approach. After several discussions with the medical professionals, we realised the importance of supporting such workshops for the wellbeing of society

to promote breast cancer awareness and prevention of a disease that continues to impact the lives of so many women and families across the country not just during the month of October but as an ongoing initiative."

Alizz Islamic Bank believes in caring for the bank's employees, shareholders, customers and the communities that the bank operates in. Social responsibility is in line with Alizz Islamic Bank's mission of achieving exceptional and sustainable results. The bank has partnered and supported various projects that have sustainable objectives and a positive impact on society that provides a better life for the people across Oman.



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