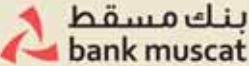




HIS MAJESTY SENDS GREETINGS
MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a congratulatory cable to President Viola Amherd, President of the Swiss Confederation, on the occasion of her election as President of her country. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere congratulations and best wishes to President Viola Amherd, wishing her success in leading the friendly people of Switzerland towards further progress and prosperity. He hoped that relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Swiss Confederation would continue to grow and prosper. — **ONA**

Founded 1975 · Volume 48 No. 213 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

TIMESOFOMAN.COM FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN



To get a callback
meethaq.om

Grow your business

With Meethaq SME Solutions

Terms & Conditions Apply



ADDRESSING EMERGENCIES



His Majesty issues Royal Decree establishing National Fund for Emergencies

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik yesterday issued Royal Decree No. 2/2024 establishing the National Fund for Emergencies (NFE).

Article (1) stipulates that an independent fund named “National Fund for Emergencies (NFE)” shall be established in the Ministry of Finance, with the prime aim of addressing emergencies and natural disasters, like climatic conditions, floods, earthquakes and other risks that might impact the country or cause damage to public utilities and public infrastructure.

The NFE will undertake the following missions:

1. Lending support to the realization of the general policy re-

lated to procedures necessary for tackling emergencies.

2. Providing essential funding in accordance with actual needs to secure the restoration of normalcy to public life after the occurrence of an emergency.
- Article (2) states that the resources of the NFE shall consist of the following:
 1. Allocations dedicated to the NFE in the State's General Budget.
 2. Donations and contributions accepted by the Minister of Finance.
 3. Revenues of investments of the NFE.
 4. Any other resources approved by the Council of Ministers. **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN 35% rise in notary transactions

1 Statistics issued by the Supreme Judicial Council indicated a 35% growth in the number of transactions in the notary departments after the implementation of the digital platform. **>A2**

WORLD Japan issues tsunami alert

2 The Japan Meteorological Agency issued a tsunami warning along the western coastal regions of Ishikawa, Niigata and Toyama prefectures. The agency said the Ishikawa prefecture was hit by a quakes. **>A6**

SPORTS Arsenal end 2023 with a 2-1 loss

3 Arsenal ended 2023 with a disheartening 2-1 defeat against Fulham at Craven Cottage in London on Sunday. Arsenal's Saka made the first breakthrough of the game. **>A8**

OMAN TARGETS HIGHER BUDGET REVENUE OF OMR11.01BN IN 2024



OMR11.65bn
The total public spending for the state's general budget for 2024



OMR640mn
The estimated budget deficit represents 6 percent of total revenues



OMR2.2bn
The total financing needs estimated for the fiscal year 2024



35%
Is the ratio of public debt to the gross domestic product

The state's general budget aims to improve business environment and expand the participation of the private sector in the economic development of Oman

MUSCAT: The total estimated revenues of the state's general budget for the fiscal year 2024 is estimated to be OMR11.010 billion, constituting an increase of 9.5 percent compared to the estimated revenues for 2023, the Ministry of Finance announced on Monday.

The estimated revenues for Oman's 2024 budget are calculated based on an assumed oil price of \$60 per barrel, this was stated during the media briefing held by the Ministry of Finance.

The total public spending for the state's general budget for 2024 was estimated at OMR11.650 billion, constituting an increase of

SUBSIDY ON FUEL PRICES TO CONTINUE: MINISTER OF FINANCE >A3

OMAN'S GDP AT CONSTANT PRICES WILL GROW BY 2.4% IN 2024 >A4

2.6 percent over the estimated public spending for 2023. The total public expenditure includes debt servicing cost, which stands at about OMR1.050 billion.

The budget deficit was estimated at approximately OMR640 million, representing 6 percent of total revenues and 1.5 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, explained that the state's general budget for the fiscal year 2024 takes into account the balance between a set of determinants and priorities while continuing to pay the public debt and reducing it as much as possible.

He added that the 2024 state budget aims to improve the business environment and expand the participation of the private sector in the economic development, in addition to supporting the social aspect by enabling the Social Protection Fund to play its desired role as an umbrella for initiatives aimed at upgrading the level of insurance coverage and social protection for citizens, as well as maintaining the level of spending in basic services, such as education, health and housing.

The minister said in his speech that oil revenues in the 2024 budget constitute 54 percent of total revenues, while the gas sector's contribution amounts to 14 percent and non-oil revenues represent 32 percent of total public revenues.

He added that estimating these

Royal Decree ratifies State's General Budget 2024

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik yesterday issued Royal decree No. (1/2024) on the ratification of the State's General Budget for the Fiscal Year 2024, after the same was presented before the Council of Oman.

Article (1) ratifies the State's General Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 according to the tables attached to this decree. Article (2) instructs all units of the State's Administrative Apparatus and other public legal entities to implement the provisions of this decree, each within the scope of its prerogatives.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from the 1st of January 2024. — **ONA**

public revenues comes within the framework of the precautionary approach to reduce the burden of any financial challenges that may arise during the fiscal year 2024 and ensure that financing needs are met in the event of a decline in oil prices.

The minister pointed out that the total financing needs for the fiscal year 2024, based on the oil price approved in the budget, will stand at OMR2.2 billion, including the deficit and loan instalments expected to be repaid during this year. **>A4**

FACT SIGNED

Inspection Unit to regulate labour market

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The unified inspection unit of labour market, formed after an agreement between the Ministry of Labour and Safety and Security Establishment (SSE), came into effect on Monday, officials at the Ministry of Labour said.

The aim of these inspection campaigns is to regulate the Oman's labour market and to streamline the illegal workers who are working in Oman.

Earlier this month, the Ministry of Labour and Security and Safety Corporation formalised an agreement to launch the Inspection Unit, with the objective of refining the quality and efficiency of inspection operations and enhancing effectiveness in performing associated tasks.

The adoption of new policies to regulate the Omani labour market is also a key focus.



File picture

Nasser bin Salem Al Hadhrami - Director General of the General Directorate of Labour in Dhofar Governorate, clarified that the Inspection Unit will be a security support unit for the inspection team affiliated with the Ministry of Labour in arresting workers

who violate the labour law and the ministerial decisions and regulations accompanying it.

He added: “The Unit will intensify inspection campaigns to eliminate illegal labour, itinerant workers, and other violators of the laws regulating the labour

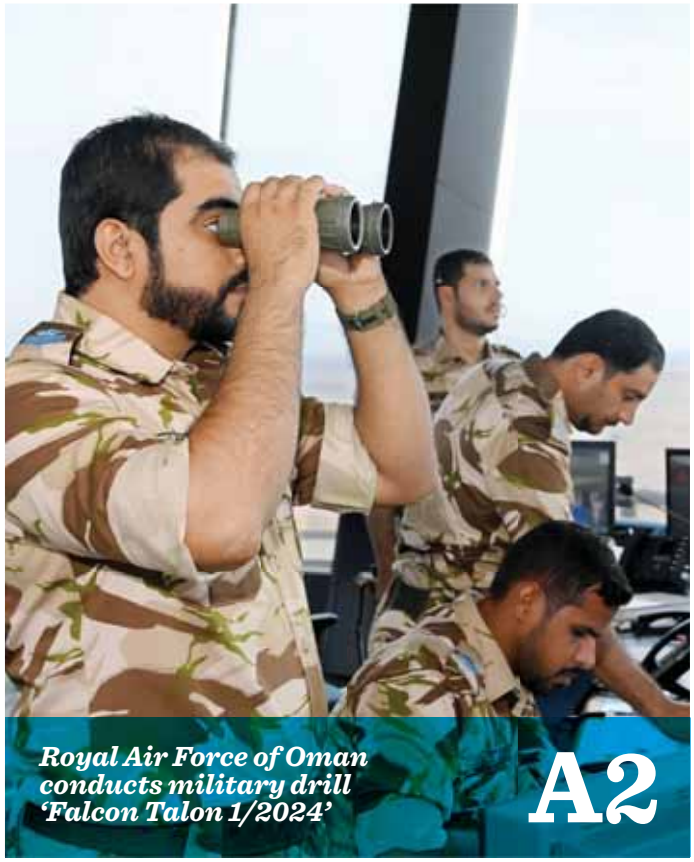
market. Additionally, this unit will play a role in transporting violators to and from the labour affairs centres, police stations, public prosecution offices, or the airport in the case of deportation from the country.”

Labour laws

“The Unit will be responsible for managing and operating the labour affairs centres, where non-Omani workers who violate the laws will be detained, by providing operational support,” Al Hadrami explained.

He confirmed that the formation of the Inspection Unit underscores the government's commitment to adopting new policies to regulate the labour market in curbing illegal practices, and removing illegal manpower.

It also aligns with the country's direction towards economic openness and investment facilitation.



Royal Air Force of Oman conducts military drill 'Falcon Talon 1/2024'

A2

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:15pm
Asr.....3:17pm
Maghrib.....5:37pm
Isha.....6:52pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....5:29am

بريد عُمان
OMAN POST

Subscribe or renew your P.O Box easily

by visiting your nearest Post Office or any of our touchpoints,
or via our website

www.omanpost.om/po-boxes



DECREE

Minister of Finance to issue decisions

<FROM A1 Article (3) states that the Minister of Finance shall issue the decisions necessary for regulating the NFE and that the minister shall possess all powers to run the fund and achieve its objectives, notably the measures listed below:

1. Devising and following up the implementation of the general policy of the NFE.
2. Managing the funds of the NFE, approving its investment plans within the context of established investment policies and endorsing the rules that regulate the investment of the NFE's funds.
3. Forming the NFE's permanent committees and ad hoc panels in a manner that achieves the fund's goals.
4. Drafting rules and determinants for awarding projects necessary for achieving the fund's objectives.
5. Endorsing reports on the NFE's fiscal position.
6. Drafting an Emergency Report after the emergencies are over and their related missions accomplished, while at the same time liaising with the departments concerned to conduct research and studies to gain insights on limiting future risks of such emergencies.
7. Regulating the reception of cash donations from companies, establishments or individuals during emergencies and in the aftermath of emergencies or natural disasters.
8. Opening one or more accounts for the NFE in banks within Oman and abroad, with the aim of direct-

ing the depositing of funds allocated to the NFE from the State's General Budget and donations, in addition to disbursing from the same.

Article (4) stipulates that the NFE shall have an independent annual budget whose surplus shall be carried forward, year after year, but not to the State's General Budget.

Article (5) states that the NFE's funds are deemed public funds subject to the provisions of the Penal Law, State's Financial and Administrative Audit Law, the system for collecting taxes, fees and other dues to which the units of the State's Administrative Apparatus are eligible.

Article (6) states that, without prejudice to the provisions of Article (5) of this decree, the decisions issued by the Minister of Finance and the contracts that the minister concludes within the framework of immediate and direct handling of the emergency situation -- in order to achieve the objectives of the NFE -- are exempt from all general and special provisions stipulated in the laws and Royal decrees.

Article (7) stipulates that it is not permissible to spend money from the NFE for purposes other than those for which the fund was established.

Article (8) cancels all that contravenes this decree or contradicts its provisions.

Article (9) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from the day following its date of publishing.

- ONA

HIRING

RNO receives a new batch of citizens

MUSCAT: The Royal Navy of Oman, in coordination with the Ministry of Labour, received on Monday a new batch of citizens who began military training after they passed the stages of acceptance, evaluation, tests, and medical and physical examinations.

This comes as a continuation of the national efforts of the Sultan's Armed Forces to absorb national competencies who meet the recruitment requirements. They will join the military training programme and be nominated as officers in the Royal Navy of Oman.

The Royal Navy of Oman has harnessed all its expertise and capabilities in terms of specialised manpower and administrative and health requirements, in order to provide an appropriate environment to achieve the speedy



implementation of procedures for joining military service and fields of national duty.

These efforts are undertaken by the Sultan's Armed Forces to accommodate the people of the nation in accordance with plans and programmes established to recruit national competencies into the Sultan's Armed Forces and other departments of the Ministry of Defence. -ONA

ADAM AIR BASE

Royal Air Force of Oman conducts military drill 'Falcon Talon 1/2024'



MUSCAT: The activities of the military drill 'Falcon Talon 1/2024' kicked off on Monday. It is conducted by the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) with its different air bases and with the support of the Sultan's Special Force (SSF).

The military air exercise 'Falcon Talon 1/2024', which was held at Adam Air Base, included a visual briefing with the leadership of the Royal Air Force of Oman and the commands of other bases on the various stages of the exercise and the training objectives envisaged for its implementation.



The implementation of this exercise comes within the framework of plans to maintain the efficiency and combat readiness of members of the Royal Air Force of Oman and advanced equipment within the ongoing development and modernisation plans for weapons, in order to achieve the operational objectives and the national tasks and duties assigned to it in various fields of national duty. -ONA

STATISTICS

35% growth in notary department transactions



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Statistics issued by the Supreme Judicial Council indicated a 35 percent growth in the number of transactions in the notary departments after the implementation of the electronic documentation system for nearly two months compared to the same period last year.

Mohammed bin Ali bin Saif Al Shuaibi, Director of the Notary Public Department in Al Amerat, said: "Implementing the Tawtheeq Digital Platform contributed to an increase in transactions by 35 percent from the same period last year."

Mohammed Al Shuaibi added that the Council activated the digital documentation platform in

62 notary departments in various governorates, and this contributed greatly to improving and accelerating the completion of the notary's work and completing it effectively and smoothly. Pointing out that employee productivity increased by 35 percent as a result of converting all transactions to digital transactions.

Al Shuaibi confirmed the addition of new services to the Tawtheeq platform, the most important of which is the service of issuing a law agency, which is a written documentation service in which the concerned parties entrust lawyers to carry out legal work on his behalf before all judicial authorities, and the real estate sale agency service, which authorises the concerned parties to an-

other person to act on his behalf by selling a property.

He stated that the electronic Tawtheeq platform issued more than 50,000 transactions in less than two months, and these transactions were completed without the presence of any paper documents, and procedures were adopted that allow immediate follow-up and tracking of all transactions, making decisions quickly and accurately, and providing better services to auditors in notary departments.

He added: "The largest number of notary public electronic transactions were completed in the North Al Batinah Governorate, with 9,336 electronic transactions, and Muscat came second with 6,833 electronic transactions."



Secure your child's future
with Children's account
from Miasarah Islamic Banking Services

Visit www.maisarah-oman.com

#MAISARAHWORLD



MAISARAH
للخدمات المصرفية الإسلامية
Islamic Banking Services

3477 5777 | www.maisarah-oman.com

[f/MaisarahOman](#) [x/MaisarahIslamic](#) [@MaisarahIslamic](#) [in/Maisarah-Islamic](#)

الخدمات المصرفية الإسلامية
Islamic Banking Services

Subsidy on fuel price to continue, says minister

OMR60 million have been allocated for the promotion of employees of the years (2013 and 2014)

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Minister of Finance, Sultan Salim Al Habsi, affirmed that the government will continue to subsidise fuel prices.



He added that OMR60 million have been allocated for the promotion of employees of the years (2013 and 2014), whose number reached more than (52,000) employees. Starting from Tuesday, employees (seniority of 2013) will be promoted, while employees (seniority of 2014) will be promoted starting next July 2024.

The minister added, "It is expected that during 2024, about OMR1.6 billion will be paid from the public debt of the Sultanate of Oman. Employment in the government is based on the natural growth of projects and replacement, and that OMR36 million have been allocated in the 2024 budget for training programmes coupled with employment".

Cross-country Championship ends

MUSCAT: The Cross-country Championship between the units of Sultan of Oman's Artillery at the Royal Army of Oman concluded yesterday under the patronage of Brigadier Ahmed bin Humaid Al Yaqoobi, Commandant of the 23rd Infantry Brigade.

Brigadier Ahmed bin Humaid Al Yaqoobi, Commandant of the 23rd Infantry Brigade, attended the championship, which reflected the high level of fitness of the participants. The patron of the event gave away the prizes to the winning individuals and teams.



2 held for trying to smuggle drugs

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Two smugglers were arrested by the Royal Oman Police (ROP) in Muscat Governorate, for attempting to smuggle more than 30 kilograms of crystal drug into Oman. A statement issued by ROP said: "The General Administration for Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances arrested two people of Asian nationality in the Wilayat of Quriyat while trying to smuggle more than 30 kilograms of crystal. The legal procedures are being completed against them."



OHI MARINE MOTORS

YAMAHA
Rev Your Heart

Tenere 1200
ELEVATE YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

UNLEASH THE POWER OF EXPLORATION

For those who seek the extraordinary, the Yamaha Tenere 1200 is your ultimate adventure partner.

For inquiries and order get in touch with us today
+968 2471 2240 / 2471 1312

Or visit
<http://www.ohimarine.com/>

WE HAVE OUR OWN STATE-OF-THE-ART MOTOR GARAGE





SCAN TO REACH OUR GARAGE IN MUSCAT
24 503685

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

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



Oman United Insurance Co.
S.A.O.G.

BUDGET 2024

‘Priority was given to projects with a social dimension, such as education, health and social housing projects’



<FROM A1 The Minister of Finance noted that the ratio of public debt to the GDP stood at about 35 percent, lower by 50 percent by the end of 2023 than the ratio it reached at its peak in 2020, when it stood at about 70 percent of the GDP. The Minister of Finance explained that the financial surpluses achieved as a result of the rise in oil prices were utilised to implement a solid plan according to which a large percentage of the debts were paid, in addition to implementing a number of postponed development projects. This was reflected in the projects of the 10th Five-Year Plan, whose commitments increased from OMR5 billion as it was at the beginning to more than OMR8 billion by the end of 2023. Priority was given to projects with a social dimension, such as education, health and social housing projects.

These allocations consisted of raising the capital of Oman Development Bank to OMR500 million, raising the maximum lending limit from OMR1 million to OMR5 million, and providing a room to exceed

He pointed out that the total sums approved for these sectors in the 2024 budget stood at OMR4.635 billion, representing 40 percent of the total spending. The minister stated that the government measures taken during the last period were met



by credit rating agencies with a series of positive credit rating reports. This contributed to mitigating the increase in interest rates that were supposed to be paid on loans. The total amounts paid for debt service from 2020 until the end of 2023 stood at OMR4.062 billion. Al Habsi said, “In order to

achieve the objectives of the 10th Five-Year Plan to realise “Oman Vision 2040”, and within the framework of the policy of supporting economic diversifi-

cation sectors and encouraging the establishment of projects that contribute to this diversification, and linking this approach to governorate development projects, financial allocations were provided. These allocations consisted of raising the capital of Oman Development Bank to OMR500 million, raising the maximum lending limit from OMR1 million to OMR5 million, and providing a room to exceed this limit for development projects that add value to the local economy in the governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, in addition to launching a specialised investment fund Oman Future Fund with a capital of OMR2 billion.” The minister affirmed that a programme called ‘Iskan’ or ‘Housing’ will be launched with a total value of up to OMR1.9 billion, with the prime aim of accelerating the pace of granting loans through Oman Housing Bank.

GDP at constant prices to grow by 2.4% in 2024

Al Harthy stressed that the preliminary results of the financial performance for 2023 indicate that the government managed to reduce the public debt from OMR17.6 billion to OMR15.2 billion



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Abdullah Salim Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance, gave a visual presentation highlighting prominent global financial, economic and monetary indicators. He shed light on the decline in global economic growth to reach 2.9 percent in 2024 and a decline in global inflation rates to 5.8 percent. He added that the average global oil prices, according to the expectations of international agencies during 2024, are expected to reach about \$81 per barrel. The undersecretary expected that the GDP at constant prices will grow by 2.3 percent in 2023 and by 2.4 percent in 2024. He touched on the preliminary results of the financial performance



for the year 2023, which indicate achieving a financial surplus of about OMR931 million, against an estimated deficit in the state's general budget of about OMR1.3 billion. He explained that the state's public revenues during 2023 rose to OMR12.213 billion, constituting an increase of about OMR2.163 billion compared to what was approved in the budget for the same



year. Public spending was recorded at OMR11.282 billion. He added that net oil revenues in 2023 grew by 29 percent to about OMR6.883 billion, while net gas revenues increased by 43 percent to reach about OMR2 billion. Al Harthy stressed that the preliminary results of the financial performance for 2023 indicate that the government managed to reduce

the public debt from OMR17.6 billion to OMR15.2 billion by paying about OMR2.4 billion, which led to saving OMR140 million from the debt servicing cost. He explained that the net oil revenues in the 2024 budget are estimated at approximately OMR5.915 billion. The collection of net gas revenues is estimated at about OMR1.575 billion, and the collection of non-oil revenues estimated at approximately OMR3.520 billion. The Undersecretary at the Ministry of Finance pointed out that the 2024 budget allocated about OMR1.140 billion to the development budget and projects with a developmental impact. He added that the current expenditures in the 2024 budget are estimated at about OMR8.573 billion, constituting 73 percent of total public spending. -ONA

SOUTH AL BATINAH GOVERNORATE

Workshop on the execution of urban strategy



AL RUSTAQ: The Office of the Governor of South Al Batinah Governorate organised in co-operation with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning a workshop on the method of execution of the urban strategy in the governorate yesterday. The aim of the workshop was to ensure the joint execution of the outcomes of the urban strategy in various fields. The workshop included delivery of several working papers on the features of the urban strategy of South Al Batinah Governorate, the executive programmes and associated projects as to make the governorate more balanced in achievement of the economic growth by 2040. The workshop also dealt with the projects and outcomes of

the urban strategy for South Al Batinah Governorate and saw the signing of the document of execution of the urban strategy programmes for the governorate. **Oman Vision 2040** Masaud bin Said Al Hashmi, Governor of South Al Batinah Governorate, said that the workshop is supportive to the National Urban Strategy which stems from Oman Vision 2040. The event was attended by Dr. Mohammed bin Ali Al Mutawa'a, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, Masaud bin Said Al Hashmi, Governor of South Al Batinah and a number of under-secretaries and officials. -ONA





SENSING WHAT MATTERS

Available at Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers

For any enquiries, please contact Mr. Mohd. Shakeel (GSM : 99423501)
Service Center : 24818018 / 24818039



MUSTAFA SULTAN ELECTRONICS CO. LLC

CR No. : 1/28749/4

Sheikh Zayed Festival breaks four Guinness World Records

This included a spectacular fireworks display and a 60-minute drone show, along with international performances and programmes, creating a joyful and cultural atmosphere for visitors



evening rhythms to mark the beginning of the New Year. Special shows took place at the Emirates Fountain, Glowing Towers Garden, and various pavilions, along with folklore performances from around the world.

The entire Festival grounds were bustling with visitors who came to experience the international celebrations, especially the Heritage Village which celebrated the New Year with Razfa and Ayalah dances, in addition to special entertainment events presented at the various pavilions. Children's City joined the fun festivities with special activities for children, including plays and competitions at the children's theatre, fun rides in Fun Fair City, the thrilling House of Horror, Al Forsan Sports Resort, and many other special features set to enrich visitors' experience with a festive spirit in the early hours of the New Year.

Thousands of visitors gathered around the Emirates Fountain to enjoy the special performances, including Sparkling and Confetti shows, presented by authentic American, Mexican, and Ukrainian bands, in celebration of the New Year 2024.

The international pavilions fea-



turing the countries participating this year welcomed a massive crowd from all over the world to enjoy the carnival shows and folklore performances.

The International Civilisations Parade roamed through Festival grounds, infusing a unique spirit into the celebrations scattered

across every corner of the Festival, giving thousands of bystanders the opportunity to witness the multicultural festivities in one place that brings together the civilisations of the world.

The Sheikh Zayed Festival offers new dining experiences from local and international restaur-

ants, along with discounts and bonus surprises for shopping. The festival runs until March 9, 2024, with daily hours from 4 p.m. to midnight on weekdays and until 1 a.m. on weekends and public holidays, providing various events, activities, and competitions for all age groups. — WAM

Xi and Biden exchange congratulations

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden exchanged congratulatory messages on Monday to mark the 45th anniversary of the two countries' diplomatic relations.

In his message, Xi said the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States is a major event in the history of bilateral and international relations.

Over the past 45 years, the China-U.S. relationship has gone through ups and downs and moved forward on the whole, which has not only enhanced the well-being of the two peoples, but also promoted world peace, stability and prosperity, Xi said.

History has already proven and will continue to fully prove that mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation are the right way for China and the United States to get along with each other as two major countries, said the Chinese president.

Xi pointed out that he and Biden, during their meeting in San Francisco, laid out a future-oriented "San Francisco vision," charting the course for the development of China-U.S. relations.

He called on China and the United States to earnestly implement the important common understandings and outcomes reached by the two heads of state, and take concrete actions to promote the stable, healthy and sustainable development of China-U.S. relations.

Xi stressed that he is willing to work with Biden to continue to steer the course of China-U.S. relations, so as to benefit the two countries and their people, and promote the cause of world peace and development.

In his message, Biden said that since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1979, the ties between the United States and China have facilitated the prosperity and opportunities of the United States, China and the world. — Xinhua

INFORMATION AND eGOVERNMENT AUTHORITY

Bahrain launches household income and expenditure survey for 2024

MANAMA: As per directives of General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Minister of Interior and Chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Information Communications and Technology (MCICT), the Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2024 has been officially launched.

The announcement was made by Information and eGovernment Authority (IGA) Deputy Chief Executive of Statistics and Population Registry, Duaa Alharban, who said that the survey will run from January to December 2024.

Alharban explained that this national survey aims to gather data from a random sample of around 6,000 households, both Bahraini and non-Bahraini, across all the Kingdom's governorates. Approximately 35 field researchers, who were carefully selected and have undergone extensive training, are conducting the survey.

She said that the survey's primary objectives are to understand household expenditures on goods, identify the most commonly used goods and services contributing to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and observe the price changes of these goods, which reflect inflation rates and directly influence bank interest rates. The survey also supports the development of governmental economic, social, and environmental poli-



cies and programmes.

She discussed the anticipated impact and desired outcomes of the survey, underscoring its role in improving government operations, enhancing the livelihoods of individuals and communities, and enabling government bodies to make informed decisions and develop aligned strategies and initiatives for both Bahraini and non-Bahraini families and to bolster social programs.

Alharban said that as part of a new approach, selected families will be contacted via the call center (17878070) for the visits to be scheduled at convenient times, facilitating better interaction and data accuracy, and building stronger trust in the process.

Researchers will conduct at

least four visits to each household during the survey period to complete various forms on electronic tablets. This method aims to reduce errors and ensure greater data accuracy and reliability. The forms cover housing characteristics, income sources, expenditures on durable goods and services, and a daily expense record, which families will fill out directly via an electronic link or paper form.

Following the data collection, field supervisors will review the completed forms, which will then be analyzed by a specialized team to reveal indicators such as average family income, expenditures, and size, all of which are crucial for policy and planning.

Alharban expressed gratitude to all government and private entities supporting the survey. She urged Bahraini and non-Bahraini families to cooperate to ensure the survey's success, pledging the highest standards of confidentiality and data security.

The IGA has been conducting this survey since 1974-1975, with the fifth one carried out in 2014-2015.

Alharban thanked the families that participated in the pilot survey, which contributed to the refinement of the survey tools. She looks forward to a survey that successfully helps to shape government policies and programmes. — BNA

TENDER NOTICE



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)
1201/2023/MAFWR/HQ-129	BATHYMETRIC AND RELATED SURVEY WORKS AT FISHERY HARBOURS ALONG THE COASTAL LINE OF SULTANATE OF OMAN	Thursday 28/12/2023	Tuesday 16/1/2024	Monday 5/2/2024	Specialized companies registered with The General Secretariat of the Tender Board with Specialized grade	(25/-) Three hundred Omani riyals for local companies (10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs
1203/2023/MAFWR/HQ-130	Supply of Veterinary Vaccines for the year 2024TENDER For Supply of Veterinary Vaccines for Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources for the year 2024	Sunday 31/12/2023	Sunday 21/1/2024	Sunday 11/2/2024	Specialized companies registered with The General Secretariat of the Tender Board with Specialized grade	(25/-) Three hundred 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.

TENDERS COMMITTEE
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources

WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT

‘Not seeking wider conflict in Middle East’

WASHINGTON DC: Hours after the US helicopters sank three Houthi boats in the Red Sea, the White House issued a statement saying that it is not seeking a ‘wider conflict’ in the Middle East, according to media report.

Notably, the US helicopters sinking the Houthi boats and killing its crew, marked the first instance when the US killed mem-

bers of the group which has been targeting commercial and merchant vessels in the Red Sea since tensions broke out.

The US has avoided directly striking the group inside Yemen as it seeks to avoid escalating the crisis further. But a National Security Council spokesman said that the US would continue acting in ‘self-defence’. “We don’t seek a conflict

wider in the region and we’re not looking for a conflict with the Houthis. The best outcome here would be for the Houthis to stop these attacks, as we have made clear over and over again,” John Kirby said on ABC News.

Four small boats originating from “Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen” attacked the Maersk Hangzhou on Saturday with small

arms and attempted to board the merchant vessel, according to a statement from US Central Command, which added that a security team on board had returned fire.

CENTCOM said helicopters from the USS Eisenhower and Gravelly responded to the Maersk Hangzhou’s distress call, the second in less than 24 hours, and were fired on by the Houthi boats. — **ANI**

Times
OF OMAN

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

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

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

7.4 magnitude earthquake rocks Japan, tsunami warning issued

Public broadcaster NHK warned torrents of water could reach as high as 5 metres. NHK reported that smaller tsunami waves were already confirmed to have reached the coastline



pan’s island of Honshu was issued lower-level tsunami warnings or advisories.

Public broadcaster NHK warned torrents of water could reach as high as 5 metres (16.5 feet). NHK reported that smaller tsunami waves were already confirmed to have reached the coastline.

The Noto region saw a rapid succession of earthquakes, starting with a 5.7 magnitude tremor at around 4:06 p.m. local time (0704 UTC).

A 7.6-magnitude quake hit just four minutes later and was followed by a series of weaker tremors for around half an hour.

According to media reports, buildings swayed in the area around the capital, Tokyo, on the central coast of Honshu.

Broadcasters switched to special programming and were making urgent appeals for residents to leave.

“We realize your home and your belongings are all precious to you, but your lives are important above everything else. Run to the highest ground possible,” a presenter on broadcaster NHK told viewers.

The Japanese government said no abnormalities were reported at the nuclear plant in the area and nearby stations.

Japan’s Nuclear Regulation Authority said the Shika plant in Ishikawa, the closest to the quake’s epicenter, had already halted its two reactors before the tremors for regular inspection.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said the government has set up a special emergency center to gather information on the quakes and tsunami and relay them quickly to residents.

In 2011, a major quake and tsunami killed nearly 20,000 people, devastated towns and triggered nuclear meltdowns in Fukushima. — **BW**

Indian Embassy in Japan sets up emergency control room

TOKYO: The Indian Embassy in Japan has set up an emergency room for anyone to contact in connection with the earthquake and tsunami warnings on January 1. It has issued emergency contact numbers for Indian citizens after a strong earthquake and tsunami warnings in Japan.

Emergency numbers

In a statement shared on X, the Indian Embassy in Japan stated, “Embassy has set up an emergency control room for anyone to contact in connection with the Earthquake and Tsunami on January 1, 2024. The following Emergency numbers and email IDs may be contacted for any assistance.”

Indian Embassy in Japan’s action comes after a powerful earthquake of magnitude

7.4 rocked central Japan on Monday, leading to a tsunami warning for the country’s western coast, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

The intensity of the earthquake was measured 7 on the Japanese scale -- which ranges from zero to seven -- on the Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture, according to NHK.

The earthquake occurred at 4:10 pm (local time) 42 km North-East of Anamizu, Japan. The depth was reported at 10 km, according to the USGS. It also shook buildings in central Tokyo. Waves of 80 cm reached Toyama Prefecture around 4:35 pm and waves of 40 meters also reached Kashiwazaki, Niigata Prefecture, at 4:36 pm.

— **ANI**

كاسابيللا
casabella

END OF YEAR
PROMOTION

عروض نهاية الموسم

FROM 30% UPTO
70% OFF

تسري العروض حتى | Valid till 7 January, 2024

@casabella.oman @casabella_oman @casabella.oman

2023 becomes deadliest year for Palestinians since 1948: Report

The bureau said 98% of the Palestinian fatalities were in Gaza, including nearly 9,000 children and 6,450 women

RAMALLAH: The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics said on Sunday that more Palestinians were killed in conflicts in 2023 than in any other year since 1948. According to the bureau, 22,404 Palestinians died in 2023, and 22,141 of them were killed since the outbreak of the conflict between Israel and the Gaza-ruling

Hamas on Oct. 7. The bureau said 98 percent of the Palestinian fatalities were in Gaza, including nearly 9,000 children and 6,450 women, adding that 319 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank since Oct. 7. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Sunday that his people would remain steadfast and adhere to their legitimate rights, and would not accept being displaced from their land. In a statement marking the 59th anniversary of the founding of the Fatah movement, Abbas said the Palestinian Authority, which he heads, would not give up a single inch of their territory, and would not forsake its responsibilities toward Gaza. Abbas said military solutions would destabilise the region and the rest of the world rather than bringing anyone peace or security. He called for a political solution based on international law and resolutions that would recognise the Palestinians' rights to freedom and independence. — Xinhua



FIREWORKS

Ras Al Khaimah sets two Guinness World Records

Ras Al Khaimah: Ras Al Khaimah welcomed the New Year with yet another record-breaking eight-minute-long firework and drone display setting two new Guinness World Records titles in a stunning spectacle that lit up the skies along 4.5 km stretch of Ras Al Khaimah's waterfront. Already holding several Guinness World Records titles for its legendary fireworks New Year's Eve shows, the Emirate has made history once again with a jaw-dropping show that broke the Guinness World Records titles for the 'Longest chain of aquatic floating fireworks' for a grand total of 5.8 km and the 'Longest straight-line drones display' for a total length of 2 km. **Mesmerising show** The mesmerising show featured groundbreaking techniques that have never been attempted before using a combination of 1,050 LED drones, a 'carpet' of aquatic floating fireworks and acrobatic pyro planes display inspired by Ras Al Khaimah's natural wonders - the desert, the sea and the mountains - all choreographed to music specially composed for the celebration. — ANI/WAM

INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION

ISRO successfully launches XPoSat satellite

NEW DELHI: Minutes after the X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) to study X-ray emission from various celestial sources was launched successfully, ISRO announced that the lift-off was normal. Addressing the scientists after the successful launch of the mission, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief Somanath said the PSLV-C58 vehicle placed the satellite precisely into the intended orbit of 650 km, with a 6-degree inclination. "From this point, the orbit of the PSLV will be reduced to a lower orbit, where the upper stage of the PSLV which is now described as POEM will carry out experiments with nine of the onboard payloads and that will take some time," Somanath added. He said the orbit is "excellent" and the distance from the targeted orbit is just 3 kms in circular orbit of 650 kms. Inclination is 0.01 degree, which is one of the excellent conditions. He also apprised that the solar panel of the launched satellite has been deployed successfully. The satellite that was launched from Sriharikota spaceport on Monday at 9.10 am, as scheduled, among others, would offer insights into space-based polarisation measurements of X-ray



emission from various celestial sources. The objective of the mission is to measure polarisation of X-rays in the energy band 8-30keV emanating from about 50 potential cosmic sources through Thomson Scattering by POLIX payload. To carry out long term spectral and temporal studies of cosmic X-ray sources in the energy band 0.8-15keV by XSPECT payload. To carry out polarisation and spectroscopic measurements of X-ray emissions from cosmic sources by POLIX and XSPECT payloads respectively in the common energy band. The emission mechanism from various astronomical sources such as blackhole, neutron stars, active galactic nuclei, pulsar wind nebulae etc. originates from complex physical processes and are challenging to understand. The exact nature of the emission from such sources still poses deeper challenges to astronomers. The polarimetry measurements add two more dimension to understanding, the degree of polarization and the angle of polarisation and thus is a diagnostic tool to understand the emission processes from astronomical sources. In a stellar display of prowess, India soared to new heights in 2023 with the successful soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the south pole of moon and the launch of Aditya-L1, India's first solar mission. — ANI

Aditya-L1 set to reach its destination on January 6

SRIHARIKOTA: India's maiden solar mission — Aditya-L1 - launched on September 2, is set for its final manoeuvre to reach its intended destination L1 point on January 6, ISRO Chairman S Somanath told ANI on Monday. "Aditya-L1 is going to reach its L1 point on January 6 and we are going to do the final manoeuvre to keep it there," the ISRO chief said, on the sidelines of the successful launch of XPoSat mission to study black holes. So far in its journey, the spacecraft has undergone four earth-bound manoeuvres and a Trans-Lagrangean Point 1 Insertion (TL1I) manoeuvres, all successfully. Addressing reporters on the very first day of 2024, Somanath said ISRO has about 12-14 missions in pipeline this year. "Only in 12 months (in

2024), we have to have a minimum of 12 missions on our target. It may exceed depending upon our ability to produce hardware, complete the testing and if things go well. If it is not going well, there could be an impact. Otherwise, we are getting ready for at least 12-14 missions," he said, without getting into much of the specifics. About the Gaganyaan mission, he said at least two more abort missions would be done, one unmanned mission though target to do two, parachutes drop tests, and 100s of valuation tests would be conducted before the actual launch in 2025. Meanwhile, earlier today, the X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) to study X-ray emission from various celestial sources was launched successfully, and its lift-off was normal. — ANI

THE ONGOING CONFLICTS

In 2024, Germany's foreign policy will work in crisis mode

Berlin: In early December, the Association for the German Language chose the term Krisenmodus, or "crisis mode," as its word of the year. The term aptly captures the state of German foreign policy. The ongoing war between Israel and Hamas is only the latest major crisis, albeit currently the most dramatic. The conflict could spread, with potentially devastating consequences. Israel's security, as German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has often repeated, is Germany's "raison d'être." For him, it is an obligation stemming from Germany's Nazi past. However, this has not stopped Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock from criticising Israel's military operations. **Exclusive interview** In an exclusive interview with DW in November, Baerbock lamented the violence carried out by Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank against Palestinians. "The Israeli prime minister must condemn this settler violence, it must be prosecuted, and this is also in the interests of Israel's security," she said. In addition, Germany is also involved in discussions about how the Middle East should look after the end of the war. Like the EU and the US government, Germany remains committed to the idea of a two-state solution. This would mean a Palestinian state alongside the Israeli state. Probably nothing in recent decades has challenged German and



European diplomats as much as Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Germany, along with other Western countries, has provided extensive military assistance, but still, almost two years later, Ukraine has made little progress in recapturing Russian-occupied territories. The willingness to provide military assistance to Ukraine is now eroding in Western countries, even in the United States, by far its most important ally. As the West grows weary of war, politicians are now under pressure to think about ending the war at the negotiating table. Political scientist Johannes Varwick from the University of Halle believes this is

inevitable anyway. "After a cease-fire, I think come difficult diplomatic negotiations over territorial changes in Ukraine, and over Ukraine's neutrality — all of which should be on the table," Varwick told DW. Roderich Kiesewetter, a Bundestag member with the centre-right opposition Christian Democrats (CDU), believes that all talk of negotiating a solution is dangerous and that a military victory in Ukraine is possible. "It is the West that has hampered the liberation campaign because too little has been supplied too late," he recently wrote to DW. The strategy, he said, must be: "Supply everything [in arms] as

quickly as possible." Much has changed in relations between China and Germany since Angela Merkel was chancellor from 2005 to 2021. In contrast to Merkel's delicate handling of the Chinese government in the interest of trade policy, the strategy paper issued this summer by the current governing centre-left coalition of Social Democrats (SPD), Greens and neoliberal Free Democrats (FDP) called China a "partner, competitor and systemic rival" for Germany and the EU. But recently, Berlin has increasingly emphasised the rivalry. China has been Germany's most important trading partner since 2016. This is why the Ger-

man government's China strategy does not focus on disentangling the two economies, as this would cause too much damage in Germany, but rather on efforts to reduce its one-sided economic dependencies on China. The limits of a foreign policy based on values, as advocated by Baerbock, are particularly evident in the case of China. In April, the then-Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang responded to Baerbock's plea for greater respect of human rights: "What China needs least of all is a schoolmaster from the West." "In a world in which the liberal West is coming under pressure, enemies are easy to make if you constantly insist on values," wrote journalist Morten Freidel in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung on November 30. "That doesn't mean that values are dispensable. It just means that they shouldn't be constantly bandied about." Freidel said Germany should "rather formulate interests." Henning Hoff of the German Council on Foreign Relations, on the other hand, takes a more positive view of the German government's foreign policy. "If we completely ignore values, as we did with Russia, then this will have catastrophic consequences, and we are seeing this in Ukraine," he told DW. The war in Ukraine has taught the German government a hard lesson: In the global search for allies willing to support sanctions against Russia, numerous

developing and emerging countries have turned their backs — intent on continuing trade with Moscow. Countries that are normally aligned with the West, such as India and Brazil, "are finding new leeway in this changing world order by exercising their freedom not to take sides," said Hoff. The Scholz government has, however, been reaching out to these countries and trying to engage with them on an equal footing. This is "an active extension of Germany's foreign policy so far, and on the whole, I think Berlin is on the right track," said Hoff. Germany, Europe's strongest and the world's fourth-largest economy, is expected to play a more active role on the global stage, not least by the US and the EU. However, this does not seem to be very popular with most Germans. That is, at least, according to a survey conducted by the non-profit Körber Foundation in September, in which 54% of respondents said that Germany should be more restrained when it comes to international crises. Only 38% wanted to see greater involvement — the lowest figure since the surveys began in 2017, when it stood at 52%. In addition, a whopping 71% of respondents were against Germany taking a leading military role in Europe. It seems Germans want one thing above all else: Respite from the turbulence of world politics. — DW

SPORTS

Arsenal end 2023 with a 2-1 loss against Fulham in Premier League

In the 59th minute, Fulham took the lead after Bobby Reid put the ball inside the box following Willian's corner

LONDON: Arsenal ended 2023 with a disheartening 2-1 defeat against Fulham at Craven Cottage in London on Sunday. Arsenal's Bukayo Saka made the first breakthrough of the game in the early minutes of the game. Martinelli cut inside from the right to Fulham's box and placed a shot, however, it was saved by the opponents' goalkeeper Leno.

But Saka attempted a shot from the rebound ball and got the back of the net in the fifth minute of the game. After conceding the goal, Fulham continued attacking in search of the equaliser. In the 14th minute, Fulham's Jimenez sent Arsenal's keeper scrambling across to make a sharp save after Robinson delivered a low cross from the left flank towards his teammate. However, the home side did not take much time to make the score 1-1. In the 29th minute, Fulham levelled the scoreline from Jimenez's low shot which went past Raya. Following the goal, the Mexican striker bagged his fourth goal of the season. Before the end of the first half, Martinelli came close to getting the lead. In the 42nd minute, Declan Rice and Martin Odegaard combined on the right side of the box before the Brazilian winger tried with a first-time finish but it just went wide from the left-hand of the post. The scoreline stayed 1-1 during the half-time. In the 59th minute, Fulham took the lead after Bobby Reid put the ball inside the box following Willian's corner. In the 71st minute, Raya flew to the left side of the post and saved a fierce strike from Fulham's Cairney. Jimenez made an attempt from the rebound ball but it was not enough to beat the keeper. In the 80th minute, Arsenal's Trossard placed a threatening cross from the left side of the box but Gabriel failed to make contact and place it inside the box to level the scoreline. Meanwhile, Fulham continued their attacks, in the 88th minute, Andreas Pereira rattled the goal-post with his free kick. The score stayed 2-1 till the final whistle of the game, which helped Fulham clinch a home win against Arsenal on Sunday. -ANI



NO REGRETS

Could have played for couple of more years, says Stuart Broad

LONDON : Former England pacer Stuart Broad said that though he could have played for a couple of years more, he wanted to finish at the top and has no regrets in his career. Broad retired from international cricket after the fifth and final Ashes Test at The Oval, with 604 Test wickets in 167 matches and overall 847 international wickets in 344 matches. "I do feel within myself that I could have played for another couple of years but I wanted to finish at the top, finish in an England shirt and to be able to control that myself. I had to try and go at the right time," Broad told Sky Sports in an exclusive interview. "I have had no regrets yet which I think tells me in my gut that it was the right decision. Because my teammates have not walked onto the field in their whites with the England cap on, I have not had a moment of realisation like, 'wow, I won't ever do that again.'" "Every player I have spoken to, from different eras, has had that one moment of 'I am not a professional cricketer any more'." "Whether that comes when England go to India or when Nottinghamshire take the field in April at Trent Bridge, I'm not sure, [but] I couldn't have finished in a better way," concluded Broad. The pacer said that he loved walking off the field at The Oval, beating Australia and getting the two final wickets. He also said that he saw his family after winning the Test. "If I played for another 10 years, I would never have been able to repeat that finish. I have no regrets about finishing," said Broad. "To have that emotion of running on for my final spell with people knowing it was my last-ever session of cricket gave me emotions that will live with me forever." "Winning the Test was the biggest thing for me - the emotion of the crowd and winning the game. It would have been devastating for me to walk off for the final time



having lost a Test to the Aussies." "Walking off with the boxes behind us, seeing my mum, my dad, [partner] Mollie, [daughter] Annabella and friends, it just felt perfect. I wanted to go out loving the game and I succeeded in that," he concluded. England was down 2-0, but a run-out of Jonny Bairstow by Alex Carey in the second Test when he moved away from the crease following a leave lit a fire in the team enough to make them dominate Australia for the rest of the series and draw it 2-2. At one point in the final Test during a 384 run-chase, Australia threatened to win the series 3-1, their first in England since 2001, but Broad stepped up, taking the final two wickets of Todd Murphy and Alex Carey to level the series. Before taking the wickets, he swapped the bails of stumps at his end. Broad said that before his last-ever ball, his emotions got better of him and his legs went like jelly and started shaking. "Stokesy (captain Ben Stokes) said it was my last over and he was going to bring Mark Wood's extra pace on to try and get the game done. I knew it would be my last over in professional cricket," said Broad. "I think I got two plays and misses from the first five balls. I had not thought about changing the bails but I felt a bit unlucky,

and saw the stumps and thought, 'I am going to change them again'." "I did it, heard a bit of a cheer and started my walk back to my run-up. I had the realisation that this was my last-ever ball. I have to admit that my emotions got the better of me, my legs went like jelly. I started shaking them, thinking, 'gosh, I have to get some feeling back'." "I wanted my last-ever ball to be a good one, not a full toss that gets whacked for four. I changed my mindset and started chanting in my head, 'hit the pitch, hit the pitch'." "Then my body relaxed as I ran in. I stopped thinking about the emotions of the occasion and started thinking about delivering the skill I have time and time again. When I released it and Murphy nicked it, the emotion of that edge going through to Jonny (Bairstow) was [amazing]." "Because everyone was on the boundary as we did not want to concede a four, when I turned I had no one within 50 metres of me. That is why I was running around jumping on my own," he concluded. Talking about his relationship with the home fans, Broad said that whenever the team needed a lift, he felt sure that the fans would get them moving. He also said that massive crowd support helped his bowling and energy as he is not consistent. -ANI

ON TUESDAY



Three games to kick off 2024 in La Liga

MADRID: La Liga wastes no time in kicking off the New Year with the 19th round of matches to be played over the coming three days. 2024 gets underway with a south-Madrid derby that sees inform Getafe at home to Rayo Vallecano, who ended 2023 in a slump, with three defeats in its last four games, while Getafe has climbed up to eighth with three wins and a draw in its last four matches. Getafe has a clean bill of health and will again look to Mason Greenwood for inspiration, against a rival missing veteran talisman Oscar Trejo. Tuesday's second match is a Basque derby as Real Sociedad entertains Alaves. The home side has lost Umar Sadiq and Hamari Traore to the African Cup of Nations, while impressive winger Take Kubo has gone to the Asian Cup, opening the door for Aritz Elustondo to play in defense and Andre Silva to play in attack. Alaves was unlucky to lose to a late goal at home to Real Madrid before Christmas, but a run of three defeats has seen it drops worryingly close to the relegation zone and it needs powerful striker Samu to find his shooting boots as soon as possible. Tuesday's final game is an east-coast derby between Valencia and Villarreal, with the home side without captain Jose Gaya, while Mouctar Diakhaby is suspended and Selim Amallah also missing for African Cup duties. Villarreal signed defender Eric Bailly eight years after he left to join Manchester United. -ANI

CRICKET

Warner announces retirement from ODI, leaves door open for Champions Trophy



SYDNEY: Australian opener David Warner announced his retirement from ODI cricket on Monday, just a couple of days ahead of his farewell Test match against Pakistan at his home arena of Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) which will start from Wednesday. The two-time Cricket World Cup winner made the announcement on the morning of New Year's Day. The left-handed opener compiled 6,932 runs in 161 ODIs at an average of 45.30, at a strike rate of 97.26. Warner has also registered 22 centuries and 33 fifties in the format, with the best score of 179. Often stepping up at global tournaments, Warner also bows out with 1,527 ICC Cricket World Cup runs, scored at an average of 56.55, at a rate better than a run a ball. Only five men's batters stand above him on the all-time World Cup run tally, including compatriot Ricky Ponting (1743). Warner has six centuries and five half-centuries in his World Cup career. "I have got to give back to the family," Warner said during his announcement as quoted by ICC. "That (ODI retirement) was something I had said through the World Cup, get through that and winning that in India is a massive achievement." Warner has retired on a high as not only he won the World Cup this year, but he also scored 535 runs in 11 matches at an average of 48.63 and a strike rate of above 108, with two centuries and two fifties. He ended up as the sixth-highest run-scorer in the tournament. There was a caveat to Warner's announcement however, with the veteran open to a return for the 2025 Champions Trophy should he be required. "I know there is a Champions Trophy coming up and if I am playing decent cricket still in two years' time and they need someone, I am going to be available," said Warner. Warner will still be available to play T20Is, with the ICC T20 World Cup coming this year in June in the West Indies and the USA. The 37-year-old entered the Australia set-up as a limited-overs specialist, debuting for the team in T20I cricket in January 2009 against South Africa before playing a first-class match, smashing 89 in 43 balls with seven fours and six sixes. He made his ODI debut against the same opposition a week later, before making a half-century in his second outing in the format. -ANI

DIVISION LEAGUE

TECS beat Vanderlande, Jotun and Earn Trust register win



Vineesh Raj



(L-R) Khurram Chowdhary, Mustansar Hussain, Zaheer Abbas



Jaleel K and P Ravindu

MUSCAT: TECS beat Vanderlande in the A Division League 2023-24 at the Oman Cricket Academy Turf 2 on Friday. TECS posted 227, courtesy P Ravindu's salient 62 along with Jaleel K's aggressive 45 to post a above-par total. Aiyappan B picked 4 wickets for Vanderlande. In response, Vanderlande kept losing wickets as Abdul Malik and Devansh Loya picked 2 wickets each in the powerplay. Jaleel K's fifer sealed the deal for TECS as they registered the third win for the league. **Brief Scores :** TECS 227/6 in 50 overs (P Ravindu 62(77); Aiyappan B 4(20) beat Vanderlande 84/10 in 21.1 overs (Abhishek Madan 20(25); Jaleel K 5(14) by 143 runs.

Winners Jotun beat Landmark Group in the D Division League 2023-24 powered by Credit Oman LLC at the Amerat Municipality Grounds on Friday. Landmark Group posted 177 courtesy half centuries from Nithin Kumar and Kugan KR. Anoop V picked 2 wickets for Winners Jotun. In response, Vineesh Raj's magnificent century sealed the victory for Winners Jotun chasing with 8 balls remaining and 4 wickets remaining. Vineeth Nair picked 4 wickets for Landmark Group. **Brief Scores:** Landmark Group 177/5 in 20 overs (Kugan KR 56(33); Anoop V 2(16) lost to Winners Jotun 178/6 in 18.4 overs (Vineesh Raj 110(62); Vineeth Nair 4(38) by 4 wickets.

In another D Division League match, Earn Trust beat OCT Seeb on Friday. Mustansar Hussain's 91 and Khurram Chaudhary's 64 piling a 152 run partnership helped Earn Trust post a mammoth total of 206. Issa Al Balushi picked 2 wickets for OCT Seeb. In response, OCT Seeb lost wickets at regular intervals as Zaheer Abbas picked 4 wickets and Maanas Kapoor scalped two. OCT Seeb could only manage 114 courtesy of Ahmed Al Balushi's 28. **Brief Scores :** Earn Trust CT 206/6 in 20 overs (Mustansar Hussain 91(52); Issa Al Balushi 2(19) beat OCT Seeb 114/8 in 20 overs (Ahmed Al Balushi 28(20); Zaheer Abbas 4(18) by 92 runs.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Salalah Mills, up 9.94 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Arab Bank, down 8.45 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,580.32 points, up by 1.47 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.00 per cent at 447.08 points. Salalah Mills, up 9.94 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Arab Bank, down 8.45 per cent, was the top loser.

Shares of OQGN were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 797 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR3.39 million, with more than 23.08 million shares changing hands.

Out of 38 traded securities, 22 advanced, 4 declined, and 12 remained unchanged.

At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers for OMR209,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR139,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR70,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at

7,466.05 points, up 0.99 per cent. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Global Financial Investments, National Bank Oman, United Finance, Sohar International Bank were up by 7.69 per cent, 7.02 per cent, 3.57 per cent, 3.57 per cent, 3.06 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Arab Bank were down by 8.45 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,472.55 points, down 0.05 per cent. Prices of Salalah Mills, Raysut Cement were up by 9.94 per cent, 1.63 per cent respectively. Prices of Voltamp Energy were down by 1.41 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 1.61 per cent before closing at 1,590.77 points. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Renaissance Services, Barka Water & Power Company, Phoenix Power, SMN Power Holding were up by 8.14 per cent, 5.26 per cent, 4.55 per cent, 3.70 per cent, 2.63 per cent respectively.

Prices of Abraj Energy were down by 0.67 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,580.49	4,514.07	4,580.32	4,514.07	66.25	1.47	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,470.60	7,392.67	7,466.05	7,392.67	73.37	0.99	
Industry Index	5,475.23	5,471.21	5,472.55	5,475.23	-2.68	-0.05	
Services Index	1,591.81	1,561.52	1,590.77	1,565.55	25.22	1.61	
MSX Shariah Index	447.53	447.08	447.08	447.08	0.00	0.00	
MSX TR INDEX	6,037.63	5,950.08	6,037.41	5,950.08	87.33	1.47	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,151.79	8,066.76	8,146.83	8,066.76	80.07	0.99	
SERVICES TR IDX	1,770.88	1,737.17	1,769.71	1,741.66	28.05	1.61	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	5,848.91	5,844.62	5,846.05	5,848.91	-2.86	-0.05	
FIXED INCOME INDEX	991.33	991.33	991.33	991.33	0.00	0.00	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.....	Up	Down.....	Equal	Sec. Traded
23,085,687	3,385,690	797	23,839,513,672	22	4	12	38

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 1

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	87,200	4,946	5	0.055	0.057	0.055	0.056	0.052	0.004	7.692	0.056	0.056	0.057	0.100	6,825,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	142,847	8,624	9	0.059	0.061	0.059	0.061	0.057	0.004	7.018	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.100	12,200,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	15,968	6,541	7	0.400	0.420	0.400	0.420	0.399	0.021	5.263	0.420	0.388	0.420	0.100	99,292,200
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	35,000	9,916	4	0.283	0.290	0.283	0.290	0.280	0.010	3.571	0.290	0.276	0.300	0.100	471,524,443
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	237,130	13,675	8	0.058	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.056	0.002	3.571	0.058	0.058	0.060	0.100	20,655,383
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	130,145	13,026	9	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.101	0.098	0.003	3.061	0.101	0.100	0.101	0.100	552,256,739
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	9,565	670	2	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.068	0.002	2.941	0.070	0.068	0.072	0.100	6,300,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	393	31	1	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.076	0.002	2.632	0.078	0.073	0.077	0.100	15,571,577
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	1,760	757	2	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.420	0.010	2.381	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.100	287,397,133
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	502,512	134,463	30	0.268	0.268	0.268	0.267	0.264	0.003	1.136	0.267	0.266	0.267	0.100	2,004,208,016
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	66,271	69,227	13	1.050	1.065	1.030	1.065	1.060	0.005	0.472	1.065	1.035	1.065	0.100	789,750,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	12,238	3,977	4	0.325	0.325	0.325	0.325	0.325	0.000	0.000	0.325	0.325	0.330	0.100	211,556,875
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	100	8	1	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.083	0.085	0.100	14,700,000
Total	13	1,241,129	265,861	95												

Parallel Market																
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	2,100	1,172	2	0.533	0.586	0.533	0.586	0.533	0.053	9.944	0.586	0.000	0.560	0.100	29,278,356
OM0000004735	SEBMCORP SALALAH	11,000	998	4	0.085	0.093	0.085	0.093	0.086	0.007	8.140	0.093	0.085	0.093	0.100	88,775,191
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	17,100	782	4	0.045	0.047	0.045	0.046	0.044	0.002	4.545	0.046	0.045	0.047	0.100	7,360,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	1,000	55	2	0.054	0.056	0.054	0.056	0.054	0.002	3.704	0.056	0.053	0.055	0.100	81,905,682
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	249,000	19,077	12	0.077	0.078	0.076	0.077	0.075	0.002	2.667	0.077	0.076	0.080	0.100	15,862,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	2,353,583	375,120	4	0.157	0.160	0.157	0.160	0.156	0.004	2.564	0.160	0.157	0.165	0.100	375,945,195
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	150	18	1	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.116	0.002	1.724	0.118	0.118	0.127	0.100	8,911,596
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	637,761	79,727	49	0.125	0.127	0.124	0.125	0.123	0.002	1.626	0.124	0.124	0.125	0.100	25,000,000
OM0000001169	NATIONAL GAS	49,585	4,264	8	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.085	0.001	1.176	0.086	0.084	0.087	0.100	7,310,000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	10,436,853	1,616,892	553	0.154	0.155	0.154	0.154	0.153	0.001	0.854	0.154	0.154	0.155	0.100	666,916,084
OM0000001111	GULF HOTELS (OM)	150	639	1	4.260	4.260	4.260	4.260	4.259	0.001	0.023	4.260	0.000	4.260	0.100	14,694,652
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	998	47	1	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.047	0.049	0.100	2,937,500
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	150	75	1	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.510	0.510	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.100	80,325,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	100	225	1	2.250	2.250	2.250	2.250	2.250	0.000	0.000	2.250	2.057	2.250	0.100	201,825,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	200	166	3	0.830	0.830	0.830	0.830	0.830	0.000	0.000	0.830	0.830	0.830	0.100	78,850,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	3,000	498	1	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.000	0.000	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.100	95,234,911
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	246,120	23,751	15	0.096	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.096	0.098	0.100	214,747,491
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	124,960	16,495	8	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.000	0.000	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.100	12,900,885
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	30,000	1,440	2	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.000	0.051	0.100	12,000,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	639	59	1	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.100	12,135,631
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	7,310,449	899,192	3	0.123	0.125	0.123	0.124	0.124	0.000	0.000	0.124	0.124	0.128	0.100	630,048,840
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	8,200	2,441	5	0.298	0.298	0.297	0.297	0.299	0.002	0.669	0.297	0.295	0.299	0.100	228,749,400
OM0000003961	VOLTAMP ENERGY	128,791	18,011	11	0.142	0.142	0.139	0.140	0.142	0.002	1.408	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	11,396,385
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	184,646	24,004	5	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.142	-0.012	-8.451	0.130	0.130	0.139	0.100	217,023,300
Total	24	21,796,535	3,085,139	697												

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND IN INDIA

Air India to introduce Airbus A350 for domestic flights in New Year bonanza

GURUGRAM: Air India, in a momentous New Year announcement, revealed that its brand-new Airbus A350, first of its kind in India, will commence commercial service on January 22, 2024.

The airline has opened bookings for domestic flights operated by the state-of-the-art A350, offering passengers a chance to experience its unparalleled comfort and cutting-edge technology.

Initially deployed on domestic routes for crew familiarization and regulatory compliance, the Airbus A350 flights will connect major cities including Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai.

Passengers will have the opportunity to fly on the A350 and witness Air India's transformation. The schedule for the A350 domestic flights, effective January 22, 2024, includes multiple routes, allowing passengers to experience the new aircraft's features and services.



Flight No. AI589 will operate all days except Tuesdays, connecting Bengaluru to Mumbai, Mumbai to Chennai, and Chennai to Bengaluru. Flight No. AI587 will operate all days except Tuesdays, connecting Bengaluru to Chennai, Chennai to Hyderabad, and Hyderabad to Bengaluru. Flight No. AI868 and AI869 will operate on Tuesdays, connecting Bengaluru to Delhi and Delhi to Bengaluru.

The introduction of the Airbus

A350 follows the arrival of the first aircraft, VT-JRA, at IGI Airport, Delhi, on December 23, 2023.

This A350 is the first of the 20 Airbus A350-900 aircraft ordered by Air India, with subsequent arrivals scheduled at a remarkable rate of one new aircraft every six days throughout 2024.

Fitted with Rolls Royce Trent XWB engines, the A350 is designed to be 20% more fuel-efficient than similar aircraft, aligning with Air

India's commitment to sustainable operations and reduced fuel emissions.

Air India's A350-900 boasts a three-class cabin configuration, featuring a total of 316 seats. This includes 28 private Business suites with full-flat beds, 24 Premium Economy seats offering extra legroom and additional amenities, and 264 spacious Economy seats.

All passengers will enjoy the latest-generation Panasonic eX3 in-flight entertainment system with HD screens, ensuring a superior flying experience.

The introduction of the A350 aligns with Air India's ongoing transformation journey under Vihaan.AI. The airline has rolled out a new global brand identity, including uniforms for cabin and cockpit crew designed by renowned fashion designer Manish Malhotra.

Passengers can expect to see the new uniforms as Air India's A350 takes to the skies. -ANI

AUTOMOTIVE

Will 2024 mark a turning point for German auto industry ?

BRUSSELS: Slick ads like to portray the future of transportation as clean and quiet. They show cars that gently purr, without emitting harmful emissions, along almost empty roads through unspoiled nature, with their occupants on their way to work or to shop in clean cities without traffic jams.

The reality, of course, is somewhat different, as traffic jams, noise and the stench of exhaust fumes are, in fact, ubiquitous in Germany.

According to Germany's Federal Motor Transport Authority (KBA), the market share of electric cars in the country has grown, but it is still comparatively small. Ten years ago, they accounted for 0.02% of the total number of cars on the road; today that figure is at 2.08%. This means that every 50th car is a purely electrically powered vehicle.

You may welcome that trend or not. You may regret that almost 98% of cars are still powered by combustion engines. You may even celebrate every new electric vehicle that rolls off the assembly line, or be a proponent of driving a "real" car. Wherever you stand on the issue, the trend towards electromobility is expected to continue. The question is whether Germany's automobile industry, one of the key pillars of the economy, is prepared for the future.



Germany lagging behind others

Germany is currently not at the forefront of e-mobility. "By continuing to reduce the scrappage scheme bonuses, Economy Minister Robert Habeck has put the brake on electric cars in Germany," says Ferdinand Dudenhöffer, formerly professor of Automotive Economics at the University of Duisburg-Essen and now an independent consultant.

He estimates that the market share of electric cars in Germany will decline next year. Globally, he says, the outlook is equally bleak. "Only China will continue at full speed, and that will pay off twice and three times over for the Chinese car industry."

Due to the German Constitutional Court's recent ruling forcing the ruling coalition to make savings, the government had to discontinue the electric vehicle

subsidy earlier than planned.

As of December 18, it was no longer possible to apply for such subsidies for the purchase of an electric vehicle.

Stefan Bratzel, head of the Center of Automotive Management in Bergisch Gladbach near Cologne, is also pessimistic. In his view, "the race for electromobility in Germany, Europe and China is already over." Ramping up the market rapidly is key, he says. However, he cautions that the targets "set by the German government are too ambitious. They will not be achieved."

According to the government's assessment, around 15 million electric vehicles should be on the road in Germany by 2030.

'A sense of hopelessness in Germany'

Bratzel says that German car manufacturers "started too late

compared to players such as Tesla or some Chinese manufacturers" and then "did not approach the topic with the necessary focus."

Notwithstanding efforts to boost battery technology development in particular, "you first have to catch up with the speed of the Chinese [companies] and Tesla," he says. Dudenhöffer concurs that China has a clear advantage.

"We are cutting back. Investments are being postponed and investments are being made in China. The budget problems and the lack of a federal budget are exacerbating the problem," he says, adding that "Germany is at a standstill. And things will get really tough after 2025 when the Chinese will be dominating the global market for electric cars."

On November 30, car manufacturers BMW and Mercedes-Benz announced plans to set up a joint network of fast-charging stations for electric vehicles in China — a logical development, says Dudenhöffer. "Germany is not the country where such investments are worthwhile. In China, electric cars now account for a market share of almost 40%."

Bratzel also highlights the danger of too much dependence on China, although he adds that it's a two-way relationship.

"China is also dependent on us." But there is a caveat, he says. -DW

oman OASIS
BALANCED DRINKING WATER

HELLO Winter
SEASON'S SPECIAL DEAL

50 ONLY

HOT & COLD DISPENSER

PLUS 2 FULL BOTTLES

PLUS 30 REFILL COUPONS

20 ONLY

WHITE TAP DISPENSER OR TAP DISPENSER OR MANUAL WATER PUMP OR CRADLE WITH TAP

PLUS 2 FULL BOTTLES

PLUS 15 REFILL COUPONS

Offer valid from 1st January to 29th February 2024.

800 71 222
9275 5522

C.R. No.: 1365452 1MM: 06/11/94/2023

TIPS TO SUPPORT YOUR METABOLIC HEALTH IN THE NEW YEAR



GET ACTIVE: Whether you're hitting up the gym for a weight training session or simply going for a longer walk during your day, daily physical activity is recommended to support your metabolic health. Find activities, daily movement and workouts you enjoy and stick with them.



PRIORITISE PROPER SLEEP: Maintaining proper sleeping habits can help to keep your insulin and hormone levels balanced.



FUEL OFTEN. Fuelling more frequently can boost your metabolism. Being sure to eat smaller portions at regular, consistent times every day and drinking plenty of water can also help improve metabolic health. Set alerts on your phone, or even use a hydration app, to help you remember to drink up.



EXPLORE SUPPLEMENTS: Consider taking a daily supplement designed to support metabolic health and activate metabolism naturally, like Metavo. Featuring the proprietary avocado compound Avocatin B, also known as AvoB, Metavo Advanced Glucose Metabolism Support activates your metabolism naturally at the cellular level.



Good metabolic health is the backbone of great overall health. Unfortunately, many Americans misunderstand what metabolic health is and are not aware of its importance. A recent poll from Metavo/Harris Poll Study reveals that nearly three in four North Americans have experienced at least one issue related to metabolic health in the past year, while only 52% have heard, read or seen information on metabolic health issues. What's more, only 30% of North Americans know that metabolic health is not the same as gut health, and many falsely believe that metabolic issues mostly occur in those who are overweight.

"This knowledge gap plays a factor in why many health issues related to metabolic health, such as brain fog, food cravings and energy slumps, often go unaddressed," says Dr. Paul Spagnuolo, associate professor in the Department of Food Science at the University of Guelph, whose research in cludes finding new ways for people to proactively support their metabolic health. Issues related to metabolic health can take a toll on your mental wellbeing, your ability to perform your job, and even your social life and personal relationships, making it critical to nip them in the bud. To improve your metabolic health and feel your best in 2024, consider these tips:

"Having a flexible metabolism at the cellular level enables the body to properly metabolize fats, proteins and carbs to help improve insulin sensitivity, glucose tolerance and energy," says Dr. Spagnuolo, whose research led to the development of Metavo. The brand also carries Metavo Advanced Weight Support, a supplement featuring clinically proven ingredients that help burn fat, support weight loss, and provide increased energy, as well as Metavo Advanced Weight Support Meal Replacement Powders, which are designed to be the perfect "metabolic" meal, with 20 grams of complete protein and

whole food vitamins and minerals. These supplements can complement GLP-1, or other medications that treat obesity and diabetes. Plus, there is Metavo Glucose Metabolism Support with Berberine, which targets metabolic inflexibility to increase insulin sensitivity, support healthy glucose metabolism, cardiovascular support and more. To learn more, visit www.metavo.com. When it comes to metabolic health, consistency is key. In the New Year, resolve to make physical activity, healthy eating, proper sleep and the right supplements a regular part of your routine.

-StatePoint



Thailand's Chao Phraya River lights up

NEW YEAR WORLD WELCOMES 2024

Countries across the globe are celebrating the New Year, with many hoping for better times despite conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine.



New Year celebrations in Mumbai, India



Some people were eager to watch the sunrise on the first day of 2024, like those in Yantai, China



San Francisco's Ferry Building was lit up in the colours of the Palestinian flag at midnight



New York City welcomes the New Year



UAE celebrates with fireworks and lasers



Heavy police presence in Vegas as US West Coast rings in New Year



Over 800,000 people took to the Champs Elysees in Paris to greet the New Year

ROUND-UP



Bank Muscat launches 2024 edition of Green Sports programme

All applicants are invited to submit their applications well ahead of the deadline on 31 January 2024



Makhmari, Head of, Community & Media Relations, Bank Muscat, said: "In Bank Muscat, we accord Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes and initiatives great importance considering that they are one of the main pillars that we continuously strive to develop. Green Sports programme is a sustainable programme, running for the 13th year now, which is a clear indication of its role in supporting Youth and Sports sectors. Since its inception, the programme the Bank contributed supported the development of 183 Green Sports fields across all governorates in the Sultanate and we are proud of this partnership with these local teams to serve the community better."

sustainability of these projects by supporting and enhancing the various local activities in their respective communities.

The landmark Green Sports Programme is one of Bank Muscat's CSR initiatives, which draws from the values of leadership and partnership to create a positive impact on Omani society. The programme aims to develop and provide a sustainable infrastructure for sports fields in Oman. It is a matter of great encouragement that Bank Muscat's Green Sports programme has so far benefitted 183 teams with over 50,000 team members across the Sultanate of Oman and with yet another 20 teams to be added this year.

Sadara Priority Banking offers exclusive benefits for premium clients



MUSCAT: Dedicated to providing an unparalleled banking experience, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) presents Sadara Priority Banking, a premium service specifically curated to address the financial requirements of an exclusive clientele.

Sadara Priority Banking offers customers a wide range of products and services designed to optimise their financial management and streamline their valuable time.

also incorporates seamless digital banking access through the NBO app and Internet banking, ensuring secure and convenient transactions.

Additionally, customers benefit from custom-made investment opportunities, receiving guidance from a resolute wealth adviser who recommends personalised investment strategies.

Customers also have the privilege of enjoying preferential rates on bank charges, telex fees, and foreign exchange rates, and gain access to a suite of insurance and brokerage services. Furthermore, they receive a Signature Credit Card, entailing benefits such as 1% cashback on transactions, annual airport lounge accesses, multi-trip travel insurance, medical and travel assistance, along with exclusive discounts on hotels, travel booking portals, and car rentals and various other offers through the Xperience app with the Entertainer.

Customers can also enjoy exclusive rewards such as reserved parking at most NBO branches for added comfort.

Moreover, Sadara Priority Banking provides a complimentary chauffeur service to and from Muscat International Airport and Salalah International Airport (application available online).

25% Off
On Total Bill



circlee

→

DOWNLOAD NOW



Special for Circlee Subscribers

ROUND-UP

Stylish Changan EADO Plus sets new benchmark in modern luxury driving

More than just visually appealing, the EADO Plus reshapes expectations as a compact yet potent family car

MUSCAT: Changan EADO Plus stands out as a remarkable sedan, captivating users with its stunning design. The spacious and luxurious interior elevates it to a unique position in the market. More than just visually appealing, the EADO Plus reshapes expectations as a compact yet potent family car. Its premium styling exudes elegance, and the combination of a lavish interior with extensive safety features delivers an unmatched driving experience. The EADO Plus from Changan captivates with its design and impresses with its performance.



Equipped with a powerful 1.4 Turbo engine and a smooth seven-speed dual-clutch transmission, this sedan offers a driving experience that is both dynamic and extraordinary. Its road presence is nothing short of brilliant. The EADO Plus combines sophistication with phenomenal performance and value, making every journey a comforting prospect. This is further enhanced by its advanced safety features, ensuring peace of mind and tranquillity on the road. A spokesperson for Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC (AGAE) says, “The Changan EADO Plus transcends aesthetics and utility, offering a perfect blend of elegance and function. Its eye-catching exterior, luxurious interior, user-friendly controls, and cutting-edge safety features position it as a pinnacle of automotive brilliance. Step into an environment where excellence is the norm and let the EADO Plus symbolise the fulfilment of your car dreams.” With Dual 10” screens, this premium sedan effortlessly combines user-friendly technology and connectivity. Enhanced with adaptive cruise control, drivers can navigate life’s highways with ease. The panoramic sunroof offers breathtaking views, while the integrated navigation system ensures pinpoint accuracy. With the

Changan EADO Plus, every trip becomes an eagerly anticipated adventure, promising attention at every twist and turn. The Changan EADO Plus 1.4 Turbo stands out with a myriad of exceptional attributes. Highlighted by the eye-catching Star Eye LED Headlamp paired with a unique point grille, it exudes undeniable elegance. Its 7” Dual Tone Alloy Wheels add a touch of sophistication, complemented by the seamless Full LCD Integrated Dual Screens for a modern touch. Luxuriate in the plush sports seats draped in fine leather, ensuring both aesthetics and comfort. The Rear AC vents promise a cosy ride for all passengers, and the Front Collision Warning system underscores its commitment to safety. Moreover, its commendable fuel efficiency, recording 18.3 km/litre under GSO standards, guarantees an economical journey. Highlighting safety above all, the EADO Plus is meticulously crafted to shield its occupants. It boasts state-of-the-art enhancements such as a 360-degree camera for a comprehensive view and side airbags that fortify passenger security. In addition, the dual exhaust features, typically reserved for luxury vehicles, infuse an added layer of sophistication into this remarkable sedan. **Changan EADO Plus 1.4 T 7 DCT Limited** The Changan EADO Plus Sport Edition is powered by a 1.4 Turbo engine, delivering 155 hp and a robust torque output, coupled with a 7-speed DCT transmission. It boasts dimensions of 4730x1820x1505 mm (Length x Width x Height), a wheelbase measuring 2700 mm, and a fuel capacity of 53 litres. The features of Changan EADO Plus 1.4 T 7 DCT’s limited edition include the EADO Plus 1.4 T 7 DCT’s SPORT features and some extra features. The exterior has dual-tone 17” alloy wheels, a sportier front grille, ORVM-electrically folding, and a panoramic sunroof. The interior features include a sporty red interior, front seat ventilation, a six-way electrically adjustable driver seat, a rear armrest and a 60:40 rear seat split. Safety attributes include adaptive cruise control, forward collision warning, automatic emergency brake and 360° Camera. The Infotainment section has a 10” LCD instrument cluster, six speakers and navigation features.

TECHNOLOGICAL ASCENDANCY

With passion for quality, Chery to invest immensely in next five years

MUSCAT: In the current dynamic landscape of the automotive industry, characterised by both opportunities and challenges, Chery has navigated through 26 years, with “independent innovation” and “technological ascendancy” becoming the hallmarks of the company. In Oman, Chery vehicles are distributed by Saud Bahwan Group. In the face of an increasingly competitive environment, Chery Group achieved remarkable results in November, with car sales reaching 212,076 units, representing a year-on-year growth of 111%. This marks the second consecutive month of surpassing the 200,000 unit milestone and establishes a new historical high for monthly sales. Chery’s outstanding sales performance is an award for its commitment to “technology-based enterprise”, acknowledging its sincere dedication to technology and the steadfast production of quality products. Established in 1997, Chery has been a pioneer in exporting automobiles since 2001, making it one of China’s earliest automotive enterprises to enter the global market. Through incomplete statistics, Chery has, to date, established eight major R&D centres globally, including locations in Wuhu, Shanghai, North America, South America, Europe, and Central Asia. In China, Chery has set up 14 production bases in cities such as Wuhu, Dalian, and Hefei. Additionally, the company has 16 production bases in overseas countries such as Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay, along with over 1,500 overseas dealers and service outlets. Chery’s products are distributed to over 80 countries and regions, with a global user base exceeding 12.7 million. Over the years, Chery has built a formidable R&D team, attracting top talent from around the world. The team consists of nearly 20,000 professional R&D personnel, including a R&D team relating to powertrains of close to 3,000 individuals, featuring



over 1,200 masters, doctors, and experts. Chery collaborates with more than 60 renowned domestic and international institutions. As of now, Chery has accumulated over 26,000 patent applications, with over 8,000 patents related to powertrains. Furthermore, Chery has established or is in the process of establishing over 140 technology labs and has planned over 160, forming a global R&D system that integrates “a strong brand, a large central platform, and refined backgrounds”. Looking ahead, Chery aims to invest over 100 billion in R&D in the next five years, expanding its R&D personnel to over 25,000 individuals, with more than 50% talents in software development. The company plans to have over 300 technology labs, aiming to achieve a world-leading technological framework. Currently, Chery has achieved comprehensive advancements in five major technological areas, including platform architecture, chips, efficient PHEV engines, hydrogen energy, electric propulsion, batteries, intelligent interaction, autonomous driving, and smart cloud platforms, totaling 19 core technological upgrades. The development of modular platforms is a decisive factor in determining whether Chinese automotive brands can match or surpass international standards. Chery Automotive stands out as a pioneer among Chinese automakers in

with the optimal “one-stop” choice. The advanced modular vehicle platform undoubtedly provides robust technological support for Chery Automotive’s product R&D. Simultaneously, based on insightful observations of mainstream consumer demands in the market, the T1X platform has successfully crafted numerous high-quality and popular “top-selling items”. The beloved Tiggo 7 and Tiggo 8 series, widely cherished by consumers, are both products born from this platform. As the automotive industry’s “New Four Modernizations” progress accelerates alongside the continuous elevation of consumer demands, Chery Automotive, building upon the advantages of the T1X platform, has iteratively upgraded its platform architecture to achieve technological innovation once again. The result is the all-new T2X platform, which is poised to cater to diverse consumer groups and offer a more varied product experience. According to available information, the T2X platform represents a comprehensive advancement in the application of intelligent technology, the design of driving quality, and platform compatibility. It can accommodate the design and development of higher-level and multiple vehicle types. By aligning with the latest market demands for driving, the T2X platform is capable of delivering new models suitable for various road conditions and scenarios, providing users with an enhanced driving experience. Whether in terms of the global R&D system, market deployment, or the upgrade of platform development, Chery remains at the forefront of the industry, providing a steady stream of “power” for Chery’s development and laying a solid foundation for Chery’s next step in global development. Looking ahead, Chery persists in focusing on independent technological R&D, driving continuous innovation with technology, and embarking on leap-forward development.

INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES



Eshraqa Foundation signs agreements with ministries of education and health

MUSCAT: In a significant step towards bolstering its commitment to community development, the Khimji Ramdas (KR) Eshraqa Foundation officially signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Health (MoH). The ceremony, held under the patronage of AlMunther Ahmed Al Marhoon, Wali Muttrah, marked a milestone in the KR Eshraqa Foundation’s ongoing efforts to enhance education and healthcare infrastructure in Oman. Under the MoU inked with Dr Ali Humaid Al Jahwari, the Directorate-General of Education, Muscat Governorate, the KR Eshraqa Foundation is set to fortify the infrastructure of three schools: Al Walja School for Basic Education, Darsait School for Basic Education and Al Amaal School for Basic Education. The foundation’s support will encompass the installation of CCTVs, provision of sunshades, and the implementation of a state-of-the-art Public Address system, aimed at creating safer and more conducive learning environments for students. Simultaneously, through a separate MoU signed with Dr. Thammara Said Al-Ghafri, Director General of Health Services of Muscat Governorate, the KR Eshraqa Foundation is poised to elevate the quality of medical services at Hai Al Mina Health Centre in Muttrah. The foundation’s contribution will include the donation of advanced dental medical equipment such as a dental microscope, obturation system, broken instrument removal kit, ProUltra Piezo Ultrasonic, Endo Motor, and Minis Apex Root locator, ensuring enhanced healthcare facilities for the local community. Nailesh Khimji, Director, Khimji Ramdas stated, “Through our partnerships with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, the KR Eshraqa Foundation continues its mission to be a catalyst for positive change in communities. We believe that investing in education and healthcare infrastructure is fundamental to the long-term well-being and prosperity of society. These initiatives align with our goal of creating sustainable impact, and nurturing a better future for Oman, under Vision 2040.” Al Jahwari said, “Our collaboration with the KR Eshraqa Foundation marks a significant leap forward in our efforts to enhance educational facilities.” Al-Ghafri averred: “The KR Eshraqa Foundation’s support to improve the healthcare services at Hai Al Mina Health Centre is commendable. The donation of advanced dental medical equipment will contribute significantly to enhancing the quality of medical care provided to the community.”





pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water



HYDRATE SMARTLY

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

oman OASIS

800 71 222 9275 5522



INTRODUCING THE ALL NEW
MAZDA CX-90
POWER & ELEGANCE PERFECTLY ALIGNED



MILD HYBRID
INLINE 6 CYLINDER 3.3L TURBO ENGINE



HANDS-FREE POWER LIFTGATE



DRIVER PERSONALISATION SYSTEM



BOSE ACOUSTICS



Everyone can live
a healthier life with Beko
#LiveLikeAPro



جينتكو
Genetco

C.R. No. 1009680

MUSCAT
96742452

SALALAH

97924410, 94048494

Available at
Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers



www.genetco.net



@GenetcoOman



@GenetcoOman



Genetco Oman