



HM PARDONS 175 PRISONERS

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, has issued a Royal pardon to a number of prisoners convicted of different cases. They included 175 Omani and foreign prisoners, according to an official source at the Royal Oman Police (ROP). The Royal pardon of His Majesty the Supreme Commander coincides with the Prophet Mohammed's Birthday Anniversary and in consideration of families of the prisoners. — **ONA**

Founded 1975 · Volume 49 No. 138 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group





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PHONE CALL

His Majesty speaks to Canadian PM

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik spoke to Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau on phone. During the call on Monday, His Majesty and the Canadian Prime Minister discussed several aspects of bilateral cooperation between the two friendly countries and exchanged views on the latest developments at the regional and international levels. — **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Oman, Iraq review ties

1 Oman and Iraq review the historic ties binding the two countries. **>A3**

OMAN

Gold hits all-time high

2 Gold prices surged to record highs, driven by a softer dollar. **>A3**

SPORTS

India beat Korea 4-1

3 The Indian men's hockey team scored a 4-1 win over Korea in the semis. **>B6**

MEETING

Sayyid Fahd receives Iraqi official

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Fahd Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers yesterday received Dr. Fuad Hussein, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

The guest conveyed greetings and best wishes of success of the Iraqi leadership to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the Omani government. He also conveyed their wishes of further development for Oman.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and means of enhancing them in various fields. **>A5**



Sayyid Shihab receives Iraqi official

A5

10 STRATEGIC INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES UNVEILED TO ATTRACT GLOBAL INVESTORS

Foreign investments worth over OMR166 million are sought in the manufacturing sector by the commerce ministry



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Invest Oman, the government's official investment promotion body operating under the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, announced the unveiling of 10 strategic investment opportunities in the manufacturing sector worth over OMR166 million.

This move is part of the efforts to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and provide

investors with ready-made, feasibility-backed opportunities in high-growth sectors aligned with global investment trends, such as renewable energy, technology, artificial intelligence, tourism, circular economy, and food security.

Set of projects

The latest set of projects includes ventures in industrial technologies, building materials, and advanced manufacturing. **>A2**



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OFFICIAL TALKS

Oman and Iraq review historic ties in political, economic, trade fields

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Iraq underline the historic relations binding the two countries and their peoples.

This came during a session of political talks, held in Muscat yesterday.

The Omani side was headed by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, while the Iraqi side was headed by Dr. Fuad Hussein, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

The two ministers highlighted areas of mutual cooperation in various political, economic, trade and cultural fields, and means of enhancing them to serve joint interests.

They also reviewed developments of regional and international issues of mutual interests. At the forefront of these issues is the brutal Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip and the situation of escalation in the region as a result of this aggression.

Moreover, the two ministers reiterated their continued backing of efforts aimed at enhancing peaceful approaches and cement-



DISCUSSION: The Omani side was headed by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, while the Iraqi side was headed by Dr. Fuad Hussein, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. - **ONA**

ing the pillars of regional and international security and stability through consolidating the rules of

international law and respecting international legitimacy, as well as principles of justice.

The session was attended by a number of officials from both sides. - **ONA**

HONOUR

Oman’s ambassador chosen as Brazil’s ‘Personality of the Year’

BRASILIA: Talal Suleiman Al Rahbi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Federative Republic of Brazil, has been chosen as “Brazil’s Personality of the Year” in appreciation for his contributions towards enhancing sustainable development of bilateral relations between Oman and Brazil.

Al Rahbi received the Honorary Medal of “Juscelino Kubitschek”, the loftiest accolade awarded by

the Brazilian Academy for Influential Personalities in Brazil.

Medal conferred

The medal was conferred on the Omani ambassador at the annual ceremony held by the Brazilian National Congress to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of the founder of the Federal Capital, Brasilia, President Juscelino Kubitschek.



Programme launched to discover young talents

The 4-day programme is carried out at Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science in Muscat Governorate

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth on Monday launched a “Youth Ambassadors Programme”.

The programme is being implemented in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

The four-day programme is carried out at Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science in Muscat Governorate.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersec-



retary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs.

Prepare young people

The programme seeks to prepare young people to participate professionally in regional and international forums, including events organised by United Nations organisations, and join Oman’s official delegations taking part in regional and international conferences.

Hilal Saif Al Siyabi, who heads the Directorate General of Youth at the Ministry, said that the programme will be attended by 100 young men and women from 14 GCC and other Arab states.

During the programme, training workshops will be held in cooperation with the UNITAR, he added.

Youth leadership

Al Siyabi pointed out that the pro-

gramme, aimed to discover youth leadership and diplomacy talents, will include a simulation session to be conducted in cooperation with the UNITAR.

Al-Siyabi pointed out that the programme will be attended by 100 young men and women from 14 Gulf and Arab countries, 21 of which will be from Gulf and Arab countries and 79 Omanis, both men and women.

He explained that the programme aims to discover talents in leadership and diplomacy, and a simulation session will be organised for regional and international meetings such as the United Nations Model for Training and Research (UNITAR), in which the most important global and regional issues facing youth in various countries of the world and the mechanism for their solutions will be presented.

Participants will assume the roles of diplomats and official spokesmen for various countries and organisations, and discussions and negotiations will be held on the most important issues facing youth.

They will engage in discussions and negotiations on issues of great significance to world youth. - **ONA**

WEAKENING DOLLAR

Gold prices hit record high over Fed rate cut plan



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Gold prices surged to all-time highs on Monday, driven by a weakening dollar and heightened expectations of a significant interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve later this week.

In Oman, retail gold prices soared, with 24kt gold selling at OMR32.80 per gram and 22kt at OMR30.80 by the evening.

On the global market, gold was trading at US\$2,586.23 per ounce earlier in the day, after briefly hitting a record-breaking US\$2,588.81 during the morning session. US gold futures also edged up 0.1% to US\$2,613.40.

The dollar weakened by 0.2%, making gold more affordable for investors holding other currencies, and further driving demand for the precious metal.

Gold has seen a sharp rise, fueled by multiple factors includ-

ing expectations of a Federal Reserve interest rate cut, ongoing geopolitical uncertainties, and the dollar’s decline.

A prominent gold merchant in Ruwi commented on the price surge, noting that investor sentiment is strongly tied to the anticipated interest rate cut.

He said, “As a safe-haven asset, gold typically moves in the opposite direction of interest rates. The expectation of a rate cut has become a significant driver of higher gold prices. Additionally, a weaker US dollar makes gold more attractive to international buyers, further pushing prices upward.”

The combination of global economic factors continues to make gold an appealing choice for investors seeking security amidst market volatility. With further developments expected from the Federal Reserve, the upward trajectory of gold may yet continue.

SALALAH REGION

Over 100 expats held

Times News Service

MUSCAT: To combat street vendors and random selling by expat workers, the Ministry of Labour has arrested more than 100 expats.

The Ministry of Labour said: “The ministry, represented by the

General Directorate of Labour in Dhofar Governorate, in cooperation with the police command, carried out an inspection campaign to combat street vendors in the central Salalah region. 150 workers were arrested, and legal measures are being taken against them.”

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MUSCAT: The ‘Green Mountain Pomegranate Harvest’ event kicked off on September 13 in the Wilayat of Al Jabal Al Akhdar in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, as part of the ‘Rummana’ event, and will continue until September 28.

Khalid bin Hamad Al Aghbari, Head of the Field Work Team at the Tourism Agricultural Development Company (Janaen), said: “The first day of harvesting of fruits during the second edition witnessed a great turnout of visitors from inside and outside the wilayat, and those neighbouring countries.”

He added: “The number of visitors to the ‘Rummana’ event since its launch on July 4 until the end of Friday, September 13, exceeded 41,600 visitors. We are expecting an increase in turnout during the next two weeks due to the start of the pomegranate harvest season in Al Jabal Al Akhdar, which is one of the best times to visit the wilayat.”

He stressed that the second edition of the ‘Rummana’ event is one of the agricultural tourism initiatives and projects in the Wilayat of Al Jabal Al Akhdar aimed at spreading the culture of environmental-friendly agricultural tourism, and providing unique experiences to attract tourists, in addition to enhancing local added value.”

The head of the field work team at the Agricultural Tourism Development Company (Janaen) pointed out that the event is the first of its kind to provide an exceptional experience for visitors through a number of activities and events provided by a number of small and medium enterprises, through which they can enjoy a unique experience among the pomegranate trees.

It is worth noting that the pomegranate trees affiliated with the ‘Rummana’ project amount to about 667 trees during the second edition, and their production is expected to reach more than 8.5 tonnes this year.



OMAN-IRAQI COMMITTEE

Oman, Iraq discuss several matters of mutual interest

<FROM A1 Further, the two sides discussed several matters of mutual interest and exchanged views regarding developments on the regional and international arenas. They also highlighted the efforts exerted to make security and stability prevail in the region in a bid to serve the interests of the region's peoples and augment international cooperation. Both sides underscored the importance of activating the joint Oman-Iraqi Committee and boosting consultations between the two sides in matters of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Qais Saad Al Amri, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA



TRAINING PLAN

Oman Shooting Association organises annual meeting

MUSCAT: The Board of Oman Shooting Association yesterday held its annual meeting at the olympic shooting complex in Muscat under the chairmanship of Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces, Board Chairman of Oman Shooting Association. The meeting discussed a set of topics, including the training plan for the national and military shooting team, the Olympic shooting complex and flying target shooting ranges, and private Olympic shooting clubs. In addition, it reviewed the annual plan for external participation and touched on a set of other topics included in the agenda.



The meeting was attended by Maj.Gen Mattar Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman, First Deputy Chairman of the Board, Maj.Gen Abdullah Ali Al Harthy, Assistant Inspector General of Police and Customs for Operation, Second Deputy Chairman of the Board, and other members of the Board. -ONA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Initiative to develop educational tools to boost teachers' abilities launched

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Education, represented by the Directorate-General of Curricular Development, launched the second phase of the Educational Tools Convoy Initiative 'Innovation and Communication.' The initiative is for innovating educational tools that aim to encourage creativity and innovation amongst the cadre in the educational field through developing low-cost programmes that enable teachers to improve their educational means specifications and technical quality to achieve ideal learning in all its aspects. The main committee supervising the initiative has prepared a timeline to implement the plan. The initiative has been announced and target schools have been informed to submit their initial works during the period from 20 to 24 of October. The final evaluation will conclude in November 7. The implementation of exhibitions and accompanying events will be during the month of November and December in three stops that include five governorates. The first stop will be in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate with the participation of schools from the North And South Al Sharqiyah Governorates. The second stop will be in Dhofar Governorate with the participation of Al Wusta and Dhofar Governorates. The third and final stop will be in Musandam Governorate with the participation of the Governorate's schools. The first phase of the initiative was held last year in the Governorates of: Muscat, North and South Al Batinah, Al Buraimi, Al Dakhiliyah, and Al Dhahirah. Dr. Sultan Al Kindi, Assistant Director-General for Educational Resources at the Directorate-General of Curricular Development and Head of the Main Committee, clarified that the idea of the initiative stems from the importance of educational tools and their profound impact on the ele-



ments of the educational process (teacher, learner and educational material); to highlight the innovations of schools in educational tools, to achieve the principle of communication and cooperation between educational tools specialists, teachers and students, and to exchange experiences and review observations and suggestions in addition to finding innovative ways to develop educational tools between the various educational directorates in the governorates. The initiative includes organising a mobile exhibition of educational tools in the governorates that includes a display of the most important productions of the ministry in educational tools and highlighting the innovation of the educational field in the various subjects, along with im-

plementing many accompanying activities. The Assistant Director-General stressed that the initiative focuses on developing educational tools to enhance teachers' abilities to employ technology in educational situations in innovative and effective ways. It seeks to develop teachers' innovation and creativity skills through specialised workshops accompanying each station, where teachers' creativity in the field of educational tools is displayed. This effort comes within the framework of achieving the educational goals included in Oman Vision 2040, by building an advanced and comprehensive educational environment that responds to future challenges and supports the development of future skills among both teachers

AT OCEC

Oman to host climate week in February

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a bid to accelerate climate action, the Oman Environment Authority, in cooperation with UNEP, Sultan Qaboos University, Ministry of Higher Education Research and Innovation, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, and Birba will organise the inaugural edition of Oman Climate Week February 24-27, 2025 at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre (OCEC) in Muscat. This announcement was made at a media briefing in Muscat on Monday by Dr. Abdullah bin Ali Al Amri Chairman of Oman Environment Authority. In his welcome note, Ali Al Amri highlighted how this landmark event will bring together global experts to address climate change and explore collaborative opportunities in the Sultanate of Oman, a hub for sustainable innovation. Ali Al Amri stated: "Oman is actively addressing climate change through its commitments under the Paris Agreement, Oman Vision 2040, and a National Climate Strategy." "Key efforts include emission reductions, energy efficiency, climate adaptation plans, green hydrogen production, and renewable energy investments," he further added. The Sultanate of Oman's first Climate Week is aligned with the Sultanate of Oman's commitment to address climate change in keeping with Oman Vision 2040 and the Paris Agreement. The event series will explore the cooperation required to deliver a 1.5°C aligned outcome in 2025 in line with commitments made at COP29 and will focus on the collaboration across governments and sectors to reduce climate impact.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

MEETING

HH Sayyid Shihab meets Iraqi official



MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs received on Monday in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison Dr. Fuad Hussein, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and means of augmenting them. They also discussed several matters of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by the ambassador of the Republic of Iran to the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

HYDROM

Initiatives to deliver Oman's 2030 green hydrogen production targets outlined

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Hydrom, in collaboration with the Oman Vision 2040 unit and the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, successfully concluded the two-week Ecosystem Readiness Lab, outlining a total of 26 initiatives designed to deliver Oman's 2030 green hydrogen production targets. The multi-sector initiatives, covering five key focus areas—Permits, Contractors, Workforce Development, Logistics, and Local Content—are set to be submitted for approval following final review from the overseeing steering committee in few weeks. Once approved, the initiatives will play an instrumental role in propelling Oman's strategic objectives, driving increased private sector investment, fostering entrepreneurial innovation, and enhancing the national ecosystem's readiness for green hydrogen projects; all the while ensuring Oman is well-positioned to capitalise on the emerging opportunities in the global green energy market. Ahmed Ibrahim Al Abri, Planning & Regulatory Manager at Hydrom commented, "The outcomes of the Ecosystem Readiness Lab are a major milestone in our journey to build a robust and sustainable green hydrogen ecosystem in Oman. Through the alignment of our public and private sectors, we are setting the stage for long-term success. This collaborative approach underscores our shared commitment to sustainability, economic diversification, and positioning Oman as a leader in the global green energy transition." The first workstream, focusing on the construction and engineering sector, has outlined a six initiatives aimed at enhancing the readiness and capacity of local firms to engage in large-scale green hydrogen projects. These include developing a comprehensive tender information package, facilitating partnerships between local and international contractors within targeted supply chains, and launching a marketing campaign positioning Oman as a global leader in green hydrogen. Additionally, a platform will be created to connect developers with local contractors, while industry standards for green hydrogen pro-



jects will be established within the framework of the National Green Hydrogen Centre. Finally a pilot green hydrogen production project has also been proposed to further drive sector development. The second workstream addressed the current and future needs of skilled labour, focusing on programmes to upskill the national workforce for green hydrogen projects. Among the eight proposed initiatives were efforts to align with labour market analysis in the clean energy sectors, establish skill incubators for flexible and seasonal workers, and develop dedicated labour housing communities. Other key initiatives included setting welfare, safety, and health standards in line with international practices, tracking employment opportunities within the hydrogen sector, and facilitating the recruitment of specialised talent to strengthen local expertise. Furthermore, proposals aimed at improving the qualifications of local engineering consultants and increasing awareness through educational programmes in schools and colleges were put forward to ensure a well-prepared workforce for the sector's future growth. The third workstream reviewed the current regulatory framework, particularly in relation to permits, in an effort to simplify procedures to enable faster project execution. A central initiative proposed was the "single permit" system, designed to streamline the approval process through a one-stop-shop model, ensuring smoother and more efficient operations for green hydrogen projects. The fourth workstream examined the logistical requirements necessary to support green hydrogen production and export, focusing on the infrastructure and operational needs of Oman's ports, transportation networks, and supply chains.

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OMAN/WORLD

IN RUSSIA

Iran’s President to attend BRICS summit

MOSCOW: Iran’s ambassador said in Moscow on Sunday that President Masoud Pezeshkian will attend the BRICS summit of emerging economies in Russia, amid brewing tensions with the West over military cooperation, US-based Politico reported.

Pezeshkian will meet Russian President Vladimir Putin during the Summit from October 22-24 in the Russian city of Kazan, ambassador Kazem Jalali told Iranian state media.

Bilateral cooperation pact
The two may sign a bilateral cooperation agreement, Politico stated, quoting media reports.

The visit comes in the backdrop of intensifying military cooperation between Russia and the US.

As per Politico’s report, the US, Germany, Britain and France on last Tuesday imposed new sanctions on Iran, including measures that would hit the country’s national airline Iran Air.

Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi denied that ballistic missiles were delivered to Russia and noted that new sanctions were “not a solution,” as per the report.

Russia has imposed a ban on 92 US nationals, including over two dozen journalists, the Russian Foreign ministry said on August 29.

The sanctions have been made in “response to the Biden administration’s Russophobic policy with a stated goal of ‘inflicting a strategic defeat on Moscow,’” state media TASS said. — **ANI**



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



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GERMANY

Road closed in Cologne after reported explosion

COLOGNE: An explosion occurred in the centre of Germany’s western city of Cologne on Monday, media outlets reported, while the police said a “major police operation” was underway.

A building was badly damaged in the incident.

North Rhine-Westphalia state police said a road between two central locations in Cologne, Rudolfplatz and Friesenplatz, was closed, calling on citizens to avoid the area. The Hohenzollernring neighborhood is known for its nightlife, and is full of bars and restaurants.

A police spokesman told reporters that there was no evidence of terrorism, but declined to comment on whether it was related to a spate of similar crimes linked to organise crime across the state in recent months.

One person was lightly injured, authorities said. They added that they were currently reviewing surveillance footage leading up to the incident. A fire department spokesman said that they had been called to the scene, but that no extinguishing work was necessary. Police wrote on social media site X later on Monday morning that the road had been reopened, but did not comment on the cause of the explosion outside a nightclub. — **WV**



The Board also approved several regulatory requirements related to activating the Wage Protection System



MUSCAT: The Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) yesterday convened its third meeting at CBO head office, Muttrah Business District.

During its meeting, the Board affirmed the preparedness of the CBO to implement the partial payment system for cheques in the banking sector and urged other authorities concerned to complete their readiness.

The Board also approved several regulatory requirements related to activating the Wage Protection System.

Moreover, the Board reviewed a report on financing small and medium enterprises (SMEs), where credit facilities amounted to 3.7% of the banking sector’s lending portfolio until June 2024, out of the targeted minimum percentage of 5%. The Board expresses its satisfaction with what has been achieved in this regard, stressing its continued support for increasing the percentage and for everything that contributes to supporting these institutions from the banking sector.

To enhance its efforts in maintaining financial stability and supporting green economy, the Board approved for CBO to complete its accession requirements to join the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS). This will enhance efforts and contribute to the role of the banking sector in managing environmental and climate change risks through cooperation with local and international institutions and bodies that adopt green economy initiatives.

In light of the digital transformation and the Board’s efforts to enhance innovation and keep pace with technological developments in the banking sector, the Board has directed to look at the best global practices in providing digital services.

The Board also approved the annual budget of the College of Banking and Financial Studies for the academic year 2024-2025.

In addition, the Board reviewed a number of reports, including financial safety indicators of banks, a report on CBO’s financial position, a report on the position of reserves and the performance of CBO’s foreign investments, and the prospects and challenges of financial stability in the Omani economy.

Furthermore, the Board reviewed the semi-annual report of the Supreme Sharia Supervisory Board for the first half of 2024, the quarterly report of Oman Credit and Financial Information Center “Mala’a” for the year 2024. The Board also took stock of the report on assessing the liquidity situation in the banking sector.

Finally, the Board reviewed a number of topics listed on the agenda, on which it made the appropriate decisions. — **ONA**

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UNSC holds session regarding vital aid access to Gaza Strip

Last December, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution calling for urgent steps to immediately allow the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip and create conditions for a ceasefire

NEW YORK: The UN Security Council is holding a session, during which members will hear a briefing from the Senior Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs and Reconstruction in Gaza, Sigrid Kaag, on the implementation of UN Resolution 2720. Last December, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution calling for urgent steps to immediately allow the delivery of humanitarian



aid to the Gaza Strip and create conditions for a ceasefire. The Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services, Jorge Moreira da Silva, is set to provide a media briefing on this matter. It is worth noting that the United Nations Office for Project Services has been tasked with activating and managing the mechanism stipulated in Resolution 2720.

Five civilians killed and others injured in Israeli airstrike
At least five civilians killed and others injured on Monday as a

result of the bombing carried out by the occupation warplanes on a bakery in the Sumoud refugee camp housing displaced persons in the Al-Mawasi area, west of the city. In a related context, the bodies of two brothers from the Qishta family were recovered from the Khirbet Al-Adas area east of Rafah city, south of the Gaza Strip, after they were targeted while they were on an agricultural tractor on Al-Shuhada Street in the Mushbah area, north of the city. The situation in the Gaza Strip continues to deteriorate, as medical and humanitarian teams face

enormous challenges in saving lives and providing assistance to those in need in light of the ongoing aggression and the worsening humanitarian crisis.

Israeli forces detain 20 Palestinians from the West Bank
The Israeli occupation forces detained at least 20 people, including a child and former detainees, in the occupied West Bank during the last 24 hours. The Detainees and Ex-Detainees Commission and the Palestine Prisoners Society said in a joint statement that the detention oper-



ations took place across different governorates in the occupied West Bank, accompanied by widespread raids and abuse, assaults and threats against detainees and their families, in addition to vandalism and destruction of citizens' homes. PPS and the Commission affirmed that, the total number of Palestinians detained in the occupied West Bank since October 7th has risen to over 10,400. This figure includes those detained from their homes, at military checkpoints, those who surrendered under pressure, and those taken hostage.

Ten civilians killed and others injured in Israeli airstrike on house in central Gaza Strip
Ten civilians were killed and oth-

ers were injured at dawn after the occupation forces bombed a house in the Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip. Local sources reported that the occupation warplanes bombed a house belonging to the Al-Qasas family in the Nuseirat camp, which led to the killing of ten people, including children and women, and the injury of more than 15 others. The occupation forces have continued their aggression on the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, which resulted in the killing of 41,206 citizens, the majority of whom are children and women, and the injury of 95,337 others. Thousands of victims are still under the rubble and on the roads, and ambulance and civil defense crews cannot reach them. — Wafa

CHINA

Typhoon makes landfall in Shanghai

SHANGHAI Typhoon Bebinca landed in Shanghai on Monday as a Category 1 storm, making it the strongest tropical cyclone to hit the Chinese financial center in over 70 years. Bebinca packed top wind speeds of 151 kilometers per hour (roughly 94 miles per hour) near its eye as it landed in the coastal Pudong district of Shanghai on Monday at around 7:30 a.m. local time (Sunday at 2330 UTC). Reports said that more than 400,000 people had been evacuated from at-risk homes in Bebinca's path. — DW

MEXICO

President signs contested law to elect all judges

MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador signed into law controversial judicial reforms on Sunday, making the country the first to elect all its judges by popular vote. Outgoing leftist leader Lopez Obrador signed the decree in a video posted on social media, hailing the "historic day." "We need justice for everyone," Lopez Obrador said. "For there to be no corruption in the judiciary, for judges, magistrates and justices to apply to the letter the principle that there is nothing outside the law and no one above the law." He was accompanied by president-elect Claudia Sheinbaum, his close ally, who will replace him on October 1. The ruling coalition



won a landslide election in June that left them with large majorities in both chambers of Congress. **Controversial law causes protests**
Legislators were forced to suspend their debate over the law and move to another location after

protesters stormed the Senate last week. In addition to heightened tensions within the country, the judicial reforms have also created diplomatic tensions with close trade partners the United States and Canada and upset investors. Opponents say the reforms will

undermine democratic checks and balances. The US, Mexico's main trading partner, warned the reforms would threaten a relationship that relies on investor confidence in the Mexican legal framework. In August, US Ambassador Ken Salazar said the changes could pose "a major risk" to Mexican democracy and enable criminals to exploit "politically motivated and inexperienced judges." **Elected judges could be susceptible to pressure**
Lopez Obrador has frequently criticized the judiciary since taking office in 2018, especially the country's Supreme Court. He had argued the overhaul was needed

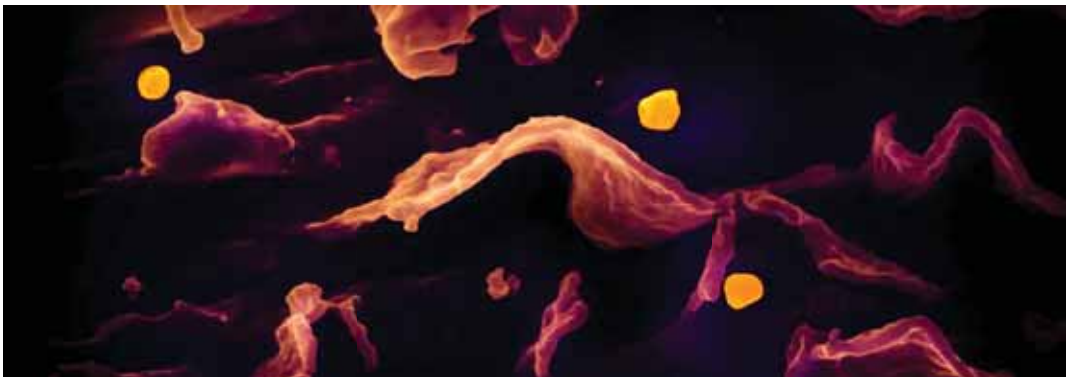
for the interests of ordinary citizens to be better served. "It was said that we lived in a democracy, but no, an oligarchy dominated — they were the ones in charge, those at the top, a minority with a facade of democracy," he said in the video announcing the law. However, critics fear the law will end the judiciary's political independence and that elected judges could be swayed by politics and vulnerable to pressure from powerful drug cartels. The publication of the constitutional reform in the Mexican government's gazette begins a process to prepare for the first judicial elections for federal judges, including Supreme Court justices, set for June 2025. — DW

DISEASE FROM ANIMALS

Nipah virus: A recurring, deadly threat in India

KOCHI: The Nipah virus caused the death of a 24-year-old in the Indian state of Kerala, authorities reported September 16, 2024 — it was the second fatality after a teenager died from a Nipah infection in July. Nipah is most common in fruit bats, which live in wooded areas close to the highly populated state of Kerala. Humans can pick up an infection from animals either directly, through droplets, or indirectly via contaminated surfaces. Human-to-human transmission is also possible. An infection can trigger encephalitis and lead to mild to severe illness, but also death. The World Health Organization (WHO) classifies Nipah as a priority pathogen, which means it has the potential to trigger an epidemic.

How is the virus transmitted?
Nipah virus is commonly found in fruit bats (Pteropodidae), which feed on nectar and pollen, as opposed to vampire bats which eat insects and drink the blood of animals. Fruit bats are much bigger and use their eyes, and not ultrasound, to orient themselves. Scientists still don't conclusively know how the virus is transmitted from fruit bats to pigs, cattle or even humans. However, there are indications that both humans and animals can get infected by coming in contact with the contaminated saliva and urine of fruit bats. The 2018 outbreak in Kerala was probably due to the contamination of a drinking water source. Dead fruit bats were later found in a well belonging to the house of an infected family in Changarothe. First, many of the family members fell ill. Later, their acquaintances also got sick.



Why is the virus so dangerous?
The Nipah virus aggressively inflames the brain. The US Centres for Disease Control cites an incubation period of five days to two weeks. Initial symptoms resemble those of the flu: fever, nausea and severe headache. Some patients experience respiratory problems. Later, disorientation, dizziness and confusion follow.

Within one to two days, patients can slip into a coma and die. The mortality rate for Nipah disease is 70%. **How can the disease be treated?**
There is no vaccination or medication against the Nipah virus — neither for animals, nor for humans. Medications have so far only been able to alleviate the symptoms.

In principle, patients have to be immediately isolated and taken to an intensive care unit, where vital body functions can be supported. Contact persons or suspected cases have to be quarantined to stop the spread of the infectious disease. **Where does the Nipah virus come from?**
Nipah virus was first discovered

in 1998 in the Malaysian village of Sungai Nipah. Febrile encephalitis — an illness caused by the virus entering the brain — and, in some cases, severe respiratory infections were observed in 229 individuals. Men who worked in slaughterhouses were the first to catch the infection. It became apparent that one could contract the disease from animals. Around the same time, a comparatively mild outbreak of a respiratory infection caused by an unknown pathogen was observed in pigs in Malaysia. Only later did scientists find that the workers and the pigs had been infected by the same virus. As a precaution, more than 1 million pigs — half the country's total pig population — were culled in Malaysia. Since then, cases of the virus have been reported in Bangladesh in 2001 and 2003, and in Kerala in 2018, 2021 and 2023. — DW

GERMANY

Baby giraffe born in Karlsruhe Zoo

BERLIN: A baby giraffe was born on Sunday in the Karlsruhe Zoo in Germany's southwestern state of Baden-Württemberg, the zoo said. This is the first time the giraffe Wahia has given birth in at least nine years, according to the zoo. She has given birth three times in total. Wahia delivered the baby after 15 months of pregnancy. A zoo spokesperson said that it was still unclear if the baby was male or female. Wahia and two other female giraffes had been transferred to the Opel Zoo in Kronberg im Taunus in the western state of Hesse to allow for renovations in Karlsruhe's African savannah enclosure. While in Kronberg, the three females spent two months with the bull Timon. One giraffe stayed in the Kronberg zoo, while Wahia and another female were taken back to Karlsruhe in summer of 2023. This is not the first giraffe birth in Germany this year — in June, a Rothschild giraffe was born in Berlin's Tierpark zoo. The reticulated giraffe subspecies that Wahia and her young belong to is classified as "endangered," according to the Red List of the Switzerland-based International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The subspecies is native to parts of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. The IUCN said habitat loss, deterioration in habitat quality and poaching threaten the animal's survival. The Stuttgarter Zeitung newspaper cited the Karlsruhe Zoo as saying that there are only around 10,000 members of the subspecies in the world.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

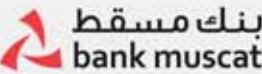
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by November 2024 reaching \$72.44, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 28 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$72.72. -ONA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,730.90 points, down by 0.31% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.09% at 432.74 points. DIDIC, up 5.26%, was the top gainer while Oman & Emirates Investment, down 2.70%, was the top loser



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Treasury bills worth OMR30mn issued

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds



MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR30 million by a way of allotting treasury bills on Monday.

The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR 5.3 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 99.654 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 99.640 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.50839 per cent and

4.52404 per cent, respectively.

Whereas, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR 2 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 98.770 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 98.770 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.93352% and 4.99495%, respectively.

While, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR 22.7 million, for a maturity period of 182 days. The average accepted

price reached OMR 97.584 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 97.565 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.84583 per cent and 4.96582 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready li-

quidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 6.00 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 6.50 per cent.

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

GENERAL MANAGER



Alila Hinu Bay appoints Nebi Ozan Ozdemir as new GM

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Alila Hinu Bay announced the appointment of Nebi Ozan Ozdemir as the new General Manager of the five-star hotel. Bringing a distinguished career in hospitality, Ozdemir is well-recognised for his ability to take award-winning properties to even greater heights.

Most recently, Ozdemir served as Multi-Property Manager for Absheron Hotel Group across Azerbaijan, where he demonstrated exceptional leadership and strategic acumen. Prior to this, he was the General Manager at Six Senses Kocatas Mansions in Istanbul, a role in which his vision and commitment to excellence garnered several

prestigious industry accolades. Ozdemir's career in the MENA region also includes notable achievements such as spearheading the Food & Beverage development at Al Bustan Palace - A Ritz Carlton Hotel and at W Doha, where he oversaw a collection of award-winning dining establishments.

His extensive experience and innovative approach are poised to inject new energy and direction into Alila Hinu Bay, further cementing its reputation for unparalleled guest experiences.

In his new role, Ozdemir will focus on driving continued success and elevating Alila Hinu Bay's position in the luxury market through unexpected, profound, and new experiences.

BRIEFS

Vehicles registered in Oman exceed 1.7 million



MUSCAT: The total number of registered vehicles in the Sultanate of Oman by the end of July 2024 reached 1,711,702, with private registrations amounting to 1,358,320 (79.4%). According to the statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). Vehicles with commercial registrations amounted to 249,243 (14.6%), while rental vehicles reached 37,053 (2.2%). Meanwhile, taxi vehicles reached 28,086, constituting 1.6%. -ONA

Oil prices climb on US interest rate cut outlook



SINGAPORE: Oil prices edged up in early trade yesterday amid expectations of a US interest rate cut this week, though gains were capped by US supply resumption following Hurricane Francine and weaker China data. Brent crude futures for November were up 15 cents, or 0.2% at \$71.76 a barrel. US crude futures for October were up 23 cents, or 0.3%, at \$68.88 a barrel. Both contracts had settled lower in the previous session, with concerns about supply disruptions easing as Gulf of Mexico crude production resumed. Still, nearly a fifth of crude oil production and 28% of natural gas output in the Gulf of Mexico remain offline in the hurricane's aftermath. -ONA

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT OMAN

FDO targets global expansion at major fishery forum and seafood expo in Russia

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Fisheries Development Oman (FDO) announced its participation in the Seventh Global Fishery Forum & Seafood Expo Russia, scheduled from September 17-19, in St. Petersburg.

This prestigious event provides FDO and its subsidiaries with a unique platform to showcase Omani seafood products, services, and investment opportunities to the global industry. It also facilitates engagement with thousands of businesses, key buyers, and investors, enabling FDO to expand its market reach.

The Expo will host over 400 companies from 34 Russian regions and 14 countries, spanning 26,000 square metres of exhibition space.

With 139 industry experts set to speak, the event is a vital convergence of leaders, traders, and retailers from the seafood sector.

Muneer Al Muneeri, Chairman of FDO, stated: "As a group leader in Oman's fisheries and aquaculture sector, FDO proudly highlights Oman's position as a major fish producer and net exporter within the GCC. We are committed to expanding our seafood exports by adhering to global standards of sustainability, food safety, and environmental responsibility, supported by Oman's attractive business incentives and improving infrastructure."

"Our participation at the Global Fishery Forum & Seafood Expo Russia reinforces our mission to position Oman as a global leader in sustainable seafood, showcasing our vast marine resources and investment opportunities."

FDO aims to introduce Oman's innovative investments and state-



of-the-art production facilities to the international marketplace. The event is an ideal platform for FDO to attract global investors, strengthen relationships, and showcase the diversity of Oman's seafood industry, which supports the national vision of making fisheries a cornerstone of Oman's economy.

FDO subsidiaries at expo

SIMAK: A flagship subsidiary of FDO, SIMAK operates a cutting-edge facility in the Duqm Special Economic Zone, producing over 100 million cans annually, equivalent to more than 16,000 tons of top-grade seafood. The facility, located near major ports, supports efficient distribution and boasts a processing capacity of 30,000 tons annually. SIMAK also emphasizes sustainability through eco-friendly practices like water conservation and solar energy.

Marsa Al Duqm: This subsidiary leads the development

of Oman's largest fishery port in Duqm, set to be fully operational by 2026. The 7.5-square-kilometre port features a 10.5-meter dredged channel and offers modern infrastructure, including a fishing harbour, processing and packaging units, cold storage, and supporting utilities. Marsa Al Duqm is enhancing Oman's fisheries sector by driving operational efficiency and economic development.

Blue Waters: FDO's aquaculture subsidiary plays a pivotal role in Oman's seafood supply chain. With a capacity of more than 5,000 tons of marine finfish and the production of 21 million juveniles annually, Blue Waters ensures a consistent supply of nutrient-rich seafood while maintaining the highest environmental standards.

Oman Pelagic: Equipped with state-of-the-art vessels, Oman Pelagic strengthens the country's commercial fishing fleet. Specializing in pelagic & MESO species, the company uses advanced technologies and eco-friendly methods

to maximise efficiency and minimise environmental impact. Operating in international waters, its vessels are certified for high-seas navigation and feature ultra-low temperature freezing facilities, ensuring premium quality tuna products for global markets.

FDO is positioned to tap into new global markets, including Europe, with responsibly sourced seafood that meets the highest international standards.

The company's commitment to sustainability, environmental stewardship, and socio-economic growth is central to its operations, driving job creation and skills development within Oman's fisheries sector.

Visitors to the Global Fishery Forum & Seafood Expo Russia can meet FDO at Booth No. H7, where industry stakeholders are invited to explore the company's products, services, and collaboration opportunities that contribute to the sustainable growth of Oman's fisheries industry.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

DIDIC, up 5.26%, was the top gainer while Oman & Emirates Investment, down 2.70%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,730.90 points, down by 0.31% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.09% at 432.74 points. DIDIC, up 5.26%, was the top gainer while Oman & Emirates Investment, down 2.70%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 339 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 1.5 million, with more than 9.32 million shares changing hands. Out of 36 traded securities, 7 advanced, 16 declined, and 13 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 86K while domestic investors were net sellers for RO 55K, followed by foreign investors for RO 31K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at

7,760.47 points, down 0.16%. Prices of DIDIC, Oman Arab Bank were up by 5.26%, 1.37% respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Takaful Oman, Global Financial Investments, Taageer Finance, Ominvest were down by 2.70%, 2.22%, 1.32%, 0.97%, 0.83% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,817.65 points, down 0.17%. Prices of were up by respectively. Prices of Raysut Cement, Jazeera Steel Products, Galfar Engineering were down by 2.42%, 1.08%, 0.76% respectively. Services Index was down by 0.18% before closing at 1,816.96 points. Prices of Majan College, Renaissance Services, Ooredoo, Abraj Energy were up by 1.82%, 0.51%, 0.36%, 0.34% respectively. Prices of National Gas, Phoenix Power, OQ Gas Networks, Oman Telecom were down by 2.27%, 1.75%, 1.38%, 0.20% respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,753.31	4,727.09	4,730.90	4,745.56	-14.66	-0.31
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,778.86	7,758.56	7,760.47	7,772.74	-12.26	-0.16
Industry Index	5,825.44	5,817.65	5,817.65	5,827.50	-9.85	-0.17
Services Index	1,825.70	1,815.37	1,816.96	1,820.19	-3.23	-0.18
MSX Shariah Index	433.14	432.42	432.74	433.14	-0.39	-0.09
MSX TR INDEX	6,606.34	6,569.90	6,575.20	6,595.58	-20.38	-0.31
FINANCIAL TR IDIX	8,837.58	8,814.52	8,816.69	8,830.63	-13.93	-0.16
INDUSTRIAL TR IDIX	6,721.17	6,712.19	6,712.19	6,723.55	-11.36	-0.17
SERVICES TR IDIX	2,124.49	2,112.47	2,114.32	2,118.08	-3.76	-0.18
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
9,329,461	1,497,482	339	24,535,179,193	7	16	13	36

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003234	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	67,958	26,995	7	0.399	0.399	0.395	0.395	0.393	0.002	0.509	0.395	0.396	0.400	0.100	93,381,950
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	418,507	117,187	21	0.280	0.281	0.280	0.281	0.280	0.001	0.357	0.281	0.280	0.281	0.100	182,915,329
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	252,256	75,049	30	0.295	0.299	0.295	0.296	0.295	0.001	0.339	0.296	0.296	0.297	0.100	227,979,200
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	14,221	1,593	1	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.112	0.112	0.114	0.100	16,800,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	100,728	7,252	6	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.100	6,480,000
OM0000004925	ALBATAINAH POWER	500	37	1	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.100	49,941,670
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	139,164	10,298	5	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.067	0.074	0.100	52,866,069
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	2,000	530	2	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.270	0.270	0.000	0.000	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.100	19,005,300
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	187,100	188,029	17	1.005	1.005	1.004	1.004	1.006	-0.002	-0.199	1.004	1.005	1.005	0.100	753,000,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	224,076	58,372	10	0.260	0.262	0.259	0.259	0.260	-0.001	-0.385	0.259	0.259	0.259	0.100	1,944,156,839
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	2,872,505	398,953	23	0.139	0.139	0.138	0.138	0.139	-0.001	-0.719	0.138	0.138	0.140	0.100	769,659,985
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	10,000	3,600	4	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.363	-0.003	-0.826	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.100	240,611,553
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	37,770	10,367	8	0.276	0.276	0.274	0.274	0.277	-0.003	-1.083	0.274	0.273	0.274	0.100	34,222,041
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	302,574	22,693	10	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.076	-0.001	-1.316	0.075	0.075	0.077	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	2,140,122	306,906	100	0.145	0.145	0.142	0.143	0.145	-0.002	-1.379	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.100	619,279,221
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	38,404	2,795	2	0.073	0.073	0.072	0.072	0.074	-0.002	-2.703	0.072	0.072	0.074	0.100	8,775,000
Total	16	6,807,885	1,228,657	247												
Parallel Market																
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTERNATIONAL DEV. & INV. HO.	25,026	5,627	8	0.211	0.240	0.211	0.240	0.228	0.012	5.263	0.240	0.240	0.250	0.100	98,219,116
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	5,000	560	1	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.110	0.002	1.818	0.112	0.108	0.111	0.100	10,080,000
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	43,042	8,355	6	0.146	0.148	0.146	0.148	0.146	0.002	1.370	0.148	0.148	0.149	0.100	247,072,680
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	26,850	2,094	2	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.075	0.079	0.100	16,550,040
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	11,500	1,185	3	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.100	1,688,593
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,812,454	190,308	16	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.105	0.106	0.100	234,880,068
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	50,850	3,336	6	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.065	0.062	0.067	0.100	14,445,600
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	7,000	840	1	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.129	0.129	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.120	0.125	0.100	9,742,338
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	37,080	4,819	3	0.130	0.130	0.129	0.130	0.131	-0.001	-0.763	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.100	26,388,238
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	78,410	8,000	4	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.102	0.103	-0.001	-0.971	0.102	0.105	0.103	0.100	27,651,231
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	139,041	9,072	5	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.065	0.066	-0.001	-1.515	0.065	0.064	0.066	0.100	31,904,365
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	10,000	560	2	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.057	-0.001	-1.754	0.056	0.056	0.061	0.100	81,905,682
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	14,962	658	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.045	-0.001	-2.222	0.044	0.044	0.047	0.100	11,000,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	122,566	10,630	19	0.088	0.088	0.086	0.086	0.088	-0.002	-2.273	0.086	0.086	0.087	0.100	7,310,000
Total	14	2,383,781	244,044	77												

SHARE MARKET

Indian stock indices end trading with marginal gains

NEW DELHI: Stock indices in India closed Monday's trading marginally up but remained muted, after tasting lifetime highs last week. At the closing, Sensex was at 82,989 points, up 0.12 per cent, and Nifty at 25,384 points, up 0.11 per cent. Nifty media was the top mover among the sectoral indices

today at 1 per cent. Domestic stock indices had been rising substantially of late, possibly due to inherent strength in domestic market fundamentals. Continued buying by FPIs Continued buying by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) also somewhat supported the stock indices.

Foreign portfolio investors seemed to have upped their investments in India, hoping for a better return on investments amid high chances of interest rate cuts in the US. "The domestic market traded in a narrow range with a positive bias as the participants are keenly awaiting the FEDs decision this week," said Vinod Nair,

Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. "The weakness in the US job market and benign inflation are pointing at a slew of rate cuts on the table. The inflow of foreign money and an expectation of stability in domestic growth may keep sentiment optimistic," Nair added. — ANI

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GREEN TRANSFORMATION

Italian radiant heating giant eyes opportunities in China's dual carbon goal

BEIJING: When China announced its commitment to peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and work toward carbon neutrality by 2060, Yang Siping and her workmates celebrated. Yang, executive director of the Asia-Pacific region of the Italian radiant heating giant Carlieuklima, recounted this episode of her career life while participating in the ongoing 2024 China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing. The dual-carbon goal of reaching the peak of carbon emissions and attaining carbon neutrality has brought great business prospects to the Italian heating company Yang works for, just as Yang and her colleagues anticipated when they popped the cork four years ago. Yang said China is undergoing green transformation and upgrading, unleashing a huge demand for environmental revamping and energy consumption reduction in the industrial sector. This will present enormous opportunities to industrial solution companies like Carlieuklima. Headquartered in Venice, Italy, Carlieuklima boasts a history of nearly 70 years. It is one of Europe's foremost providers of large space heating solutions and thermal energy management services. Since its entry into the Chinese market in 2013, Carlieuklima has provided customized radiant heating system solutions for spaces such as high-speed railway and aircraft maintenance hangars, stadiums, exhibition centers, and industrial factories. At the end of 2019, Carlieuklima completed a factory in Tianjin --Tianjin Carlieuklima Heat Energy Equipment Manufacturing Co., Ltd. --positioning the factory as a major global production base. The factory has set up four production lines capable of producing the company's full range of products, including a hot water radiant series and a gas radiant



series. About 90 percent of raw materials have been domestically sourced. "We have full confidence in the Chinese government's policy and decision-making power, attach great importance to the Chinese market, and sincerely wish to strengthen our cooperation with China," said Gastone Martorel, CEO of Carlieuklima. In his view, China has been committed to continuously upgrading its manufacturing industry, which has greatly enhanced its high-end and intelligent manufacturing strengths. The company's investment in the Tianjin factory demonstrates the unprecedented strategic role of the Chinese market. Not quite long after the inauguration of the new factory, China announced its commitment to peak carbon dioxide emissions and work toward carbon neutrality. Yang, who was on a business trip to Italy at the time, immediately contacted her colleagues in China to translate the policy's text into Italian and share it with the Italian headquarters. "We opened a bottle of red wine to celebrate the exciting moment

together," Yang said. "In recent years, China's dual carbon goal has driven the development of related industries, with more and more of our customers focusing on energy conservation, carbon reduction and green development, giving us a brighter prospect in precise energy management," said Yang. Carlieuklima has accumulated hundreds of customers in China and has established long-term and stable business relationships with more than ten companies. In the future, Carlieuklima plans to enter the high-end home furnishing market to meet consumers' demand for energy efficiency in their living spaces and expand its business to some segment markets, like schools, hospitals and other architectural spaces. "Facing a more complex global trade environment, we believe that our company's globalization will remain on a course of upward spiral," said Yang, adding that Carlieuklima is optimistic about China's development prospects and looks forward to riding the wave of China's green and low-carbon endeavour. —Xinhua



LIFESTYLE

MPX
OUTBREAK:
ARE VACCINE
MAKERS
PREPARED?

Africa
faces a shortage
of mpox vaccines as a
serious new mpox variant
spreads on the continent.

EARLIER this month, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the mpox outbreak in Africa a public health emergency of international concern. The majority of cases have been detected in the Democratic Republic of Congo but the disease has also spread to several countries in central and east Africa. Sweden recently recorded a case of a more dangerous variant of mpox, the first of that kind recorded outside Africa. The new variant has increased the need for vaccines in the Democratic Republic of Congo and elsewhere. At the time of writing, the country still does not have any doses of an mpox vaccine. The country's health minister said on Monday (August 19) that Japan and the US had

pledged to donate vaccines before the end of the month. The situation has shown a light on the severe global inequality that exists when it comes to vaccines and public health crises, and the extent to which profitability is often the key determining factor as to whether vaccines are produced and procured. Stuart Blume, emeritus professor of science and technology at the University of Amsterdam, says companies can only make a profit from vaccines if the virus becomes "an issue" in rich countries. "Nobody's going to get rich selling vaccines to Africa," he told DW.

Which companies have produced an mpox vaccine?
There is currently only one vaccine against mpox that has secured widespread regulatory approval from leading authorities around the world. That's the MVA-BN vaccine produced by the Danish biotech company Bavarian Nordic. The company sells the vaccine under the brand names Jynneos, Imvamune and Imvanex. The US has pledged to send 50,000 doses from its stockpile to DR Congo in the coming days. Japan's LC16 vaccine, made by KM Biologics, secured domestic Japanese approval during the previous mpox outbreak of 2022-2023. The WHO also recommends its use but it has not yet secured global regulatory approval. The AFP news agency reports that Japan has pledged to send 3.5 million doses of its LC16 vaccine to DR Congo. Japan has reportedly asked that they be used specifically for children, who are particularly susceptible to serious illness caused by the virus. Another vaccine on test is one originally designed to combat smallpox called

ACAM2000. US biopharmaceutical company Emergent BiSolutions bought the vaccine from French company Sanofi in 2017. Although it is a smallpox vaccine, experts believe the similarities between the viruses that cause mpox and smallpox are so great that ACAM2000 would produce immunity against mpox. "At present, WHO recommends the use of MVA-BN or LC16 vaccines, not the ACAM2000 vaccine when the others are not available," the WHO states on its website. Another smallpox vaccine designated for possible use against mpox is Russia's state-produced OrthopoxVac, which like Japan's LC16 vaccine, was approved for use against mpox in 2022. However, it has only been approved by Russia.

Can Bavarian Nordic meet potential demand?
Earlier this month, Bavarian Nordic Chief Executive Paul Chaplin said the company had the capacity to produce millions of vaccines before the end of the year but needed to see more demand as soon as possible. "We have the capacity, but we need people to start placing orders pretty fast," he told the British business daily Financial Times. "We need orders by the end of this month if we're going to meet 2 million (doses) by the end of this year." The company recently received an order

of more than 175,000 doses from the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) and says it is in talks with other governments about potential orders that would be distributed to Africa. Bavarian Nordic claims it can produce 10 million doses by the end of 2025 if there is sufficient demand, and said that it's working closely with the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) "to ensure the equitable access to our mpox vaccine." Stuart Blume, meanwhile, is calling on rich governments to step up and pay for orders on behalf of many African countries. "African countries don't have the resources to buy them and it's also not at all clear if the developed world is going to come up with the money," he told DW. However, regulatory approval is also a problem in Africa. DR Congo did not receive vaccines during the 2022/23 outbreak due to a lack of approvals although now it and Nigeria have approved Bavarian Nordic's jab for emergency use. Other countries currently affected by outbreaks in Africa have not approved any vaccine, complicating vaccine delivery further.

How key is profitability to determining the amount of vaccines produced?
Bavarian Nordic's share price has surged by around 40% in the week since the mpox crisis was declared a public health emergency, a sign of how much vaccines can move markets. Blume says profit is now a key determining factor for the production of vaccines in a public health crisis. "In the 1960s and 1970s, public health concerns really dominated the vaccine field. With neoliberalism in the 1980s, it became a matter of profitability and shareholder return." He argues geopolitical influence has also become a factor in the production of vaccines, and cites the example of Chinese and Russian efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Their production was not necessarily geared to profit. It was geared equally to creating

client relationships with other countries," he said, adding that it's hard to tell what role diplomacy is going to play this time. Need that vaccine delivery will continue to be sluggish in Africa. "It's a bit like with Ebola," he said, citing the example of the deadly Ebola virus which has caused thousands of deaths in Africa over the past few decades. "Ebola was around for years, and it was only when it affected the Global North that anybody got interested in developing a vaccine." — **nw**

India rout South Korea, to meet China in final

A rampant Indian side won 4-1 while hosts upset Pakistan 2-0 in the semis of the Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament

MOQI: The Indian men's hockey team trounced South Korea 4-1 to reach the finals of the Asian Champions Trophy 2024 in Moqi, China on Monday.

South Korea last beat India 11 years ago, in a 4-3 win in the 2013 Asia Cup.

Defending champion India will face hosts China, who stunned Pakistan in the other semifinal, in the summit clash on Tuesday.

At half-time, the Indians had a comfortable 2-0 lead against their South Korean counterparts, courtesy of strikes from Uttam Singh and skipper Harmanpreet Singh.

Jarmanpreet Singh added his name to the scoring sheet after re-



ceiving a pass from Sumit and slotting it past the Korean keeper.

South Korea got back a consolation goal in the third quarter after Yang Jihun converted a penalty corner.

The Men in Blue put some more distance between their opponents and themselves after Harmanpreet completed his brace, once again from a penalty corner.

India is the only unbeaten team in the tournament. Having defeated China 3-0, Japan 5-1, Malaysia 8-1, Korea 3-1 and Pakistan 2-1, the reigning Asian Games gold medalist entered the semifinal with ease.

China stun Pakistan

Earlier, in the first semi-final, China stunned Pakistan 2-0 in a pen-

alty shootout.

It is the first time in the history of the tournament that China have made it to the final.

The second-highest number of title winners Pakistan will play for the bronze medal against South Korea.

Chinese goalkeeper Caiyu Wang was outstanding in his efforts to keep a clean slate in the shootout,



while Benhai Chen and Chanliang Lin scored for China.

Earlier in the match, Yuanlin Lu had given China an early 1-0 lead in the 18th minute.

China also came up with brilliant defence in the second quarter to stop Pakistan from scoring a penalty corner. They had created as many as five penalty corners in the quarter but could not breach the Chinese defence.

Pakistan mustered a goal in the 37th minute through Ahmed Na-deem, China ensured they didn't concede another goal.

Pakistan made a handful of circle entries in the following minutes in the third and the fourth quarter, China restricted their shots on goal quite effectively to keep the scoreline at 1-1. -ANI

PREMIER LEAGUE

Gabriel gives Arsenal derby triumph over Tottenham

LONDON: Arsenal came out on top in a fiery north London derby as Gabriel's second-half header gave them a crucial 1-0 victory at Tottenham Hotspur in their Premier League game at the Hotspur stadium on Sunday.

The Gunners were without captain Martin Odegaard and key midfielder Declan Rice through injury and suspension respectively and survived a stern examination from Ange Postecoglou's side to spark ecstatic scenes at the final whistle.

Arsenal keeper David Raya excelled in the early stages to keep Spurs at bay with fine saves from Dejan Kulusevski while Spurs opposite number Guglielmo Vicario had to be at his best to keep out Kai Havertz's header.

Temperatures boiled over late in the first half as players from both sides clashed following Jurien Timber's challenge on Pedro Porro, setting the stage for a tense second period.

And it was Gabriel who made the vital contribution after 64 minutes, escaping the attentions of Cristian Romero to rise and power Bukako Saka's corner high past Vicario.

Arsenal always relish any derby victory at Spurs but this one will taste especially sweet as it was achieved without two such significant figures in Odegaard and Rice while providing the perfect platform for next weekend's visit to champions Manchester City.

Tottenham's old failings returned to haunt them as they squandered the opportunity to put a marker down in front of



their own supporters against depleted Arsenal. They were reflected in the goal as Spurs once again failed to defend a set-piece, a constant Achilles heel in the Ange Postecoglou era.

At Molineux Stadium, Harvey Barnes' stunning strike maintained Newcastle's unbeaten start after the Magpies came from behind to win 2-1 at Wolves.

The winger, on as a substitute, curled in from 20 yards with 10 minutes left soon after Fabian Schar had levelled.

Mario Lemina's first goal since February gave the hosts the lead but Gary O'Neil's side remain winless from their opening four games.

Newcastle started strongly and Wolves keeper Sam Johnstone tipped Jacob Murphy's shot over after the winger burst through, prompting an animated discussion between O'Neil and defender Craig Dawson.

The visitors continued to make the early running and Anthony Gordon hit the post when he ghosted past Nelson Semedo and nutmegged Yerson Mosquera.

But Wolves settled and Lemina put them ahead nine minutes before half-time, sweeping in Jorgen Strand Larsen's cross after Joao Gomes' cute dummy.

Newcastle manager Eddie Howe had seen enough and sent on Barnes, Sandro Tonali and Joe Willock for Aleksandar Isak, Sean Longstaff and Joelinton at the break.

Nick Pope denied Strand Larsen and Matheus Cunha but Schar levelled with 15 minutes left when his 30-yard effort clipped Craig Dawson and flew in before Barnes' superb goal won it.

Pope denied Cunha a stoppage-time leveller and Barnes could have added a third for Newcastle, only to dink wide with just Johnstone to beat. -Agencies

SERIE A



Napoli trounce Cagliari 4-0

CAGLIARI: Scotland midfielders Scott McTominay and Billy Gilmour made their Napoli debuts in a comfortable 4-0 Serie A win at Cagliari on Sunday.

The pair - signed from Manchester United and Brighton respectively - came on together in the 74th minute with the club 3-0 up.

The match was suspended for seven minutes in the first half as opposition fans threw objects at each other and on the pitch, including fireworks.

Antonio Conte's side have won three games in a row to move to the top of the fledgling Serie A table.

Giovanni di Lorenzo opened the scoring at Cagliari with a deflected strike and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia doubled their lead from Romelu Lukaku's pass. Lukaku pounced on a defensive error to score his second goal in two games with Alessandro Buongiorno heading a late fourth. -Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Man City's hearing for 115 charges begins



LONDON: The hearing into Manchester City's 115 charges for alleged breaches of the Premier League's financial rules began on Monday.

City were charged and referred to an independent commission in February 2023 following a four-year investigation.

It is alleged City breached its financial rules between 2009 and 2018.

City strongly deny all charges and have said their case is supported by a "comprehensive body of irrefutable evidence".

The Premier League claim City breached rules requiring the club to provide "accurate financial information that gives a true and fair view of the club's financial position".

This information covered club revenue, which includes sponsorship income and operating costs.

It has also accused the Premier League champions of not co-operating. When the Premier League investigation began, City said the allegations were "entirely false" and that the allegations originally published in German newspaper *Der Spiegel* came from "illegal hacking and out of context publication of City emails".

City have won eight league titles, multiple cups and the Champions League since their 2008 takeover by the Abu Dhabi United Group.

"It starts soon and hopefully finishes soon," City manager Pep Guardiola said on Friday. "I am looking forward to the decision."

"I'm happy it's starting on Monday. I know there will be more rumours, new specialists about the sentences. We're going to see."

"I know what people are looking forward to, what they expect, I know, what I read for many, many years. 'Everybody is innocent until guilt is proven. So we'll see.'" -Agencies

LA LIGA PRIMERA DIVISION

Yamal strikes twice in Barcelona's easy win



GERONA: Lamine Yamal scored twice as Barcelona ruthlessly maintained their perfect start to the season with a 4-1 away win at Girona on Sunday.

The 17-year-old Spain winger opened the scoring in the 30th minute after dispossessing David Lopez deep in his own half before lifting the ball beyond goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga.

Yamal scored a second seven minutes later with a composed first-time finish from the edge of the box after Raphinha's free-kick rebounded to him.

Girona, who finished third last season, thought they had been awarded a penalty after Bryan Gil's

header struck the arm of Inigo Martinez but the decision was reversed after a video assistant referee review.

Dani Olmo became the first player to score in his first three Barcelona league matches since Cesc Fabregas in 2011 with a fine finish from a tight angle in the 47th minute to make it 3-0.

Midfielder Pedri latched on to Marc Casado's defence-splitting pass to slot beyond Gazzaniga to put the gloss on the performance 17 minutes later.

Substitute Cristhian Stuani scored a consolation for the home side 10 minutes from time with a first-time finish inside the penalty

area. Six minutes later, former Manchester City winger Ferran Torres, who had only been on the pitch for 17 minutes, was shown a red card for a heavy challenge on Yaser Asprilla.

Victory moved Hansi Flick's Barcelona side four points clear of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga after their fifth consecutive win.

Meanwhile, at Estadio Cívitas Metropolitano, England midfielder Conor Gallagher scored his first goal for Atletico Madrid in their 3-0 victory over Valencia.

The 24-year-old, who joined from Chelsea in a deal worth £33 million last month, put his side 1-0 up when he slotted home from in-

side the area after being played in by Rodrigo De Paul.

Antoine Griezmann then doubled their lead after half-time, before Julian Alvarez also scored his first Atletico goal since his summer move from Manchester City.

The Argentina striker, who had failed to find the net in his first four appearances for the club, scrambled in from close range in stoppage time.

The result moves Atletico up to second in La Liga, four points behind leaders Barcelona.

Gallagher is the 12th player from England to score a La Liga goal and the first to do so for Atletico Madrid. -Agencies

InterContinental Muscat unveils ‘Spice and Tales’ theme food night at Musandam Restaurant

Set amidst the grandeur of this iconic venue, the menu celebrates the rich diversity of flavours from across the Indian subcontinent, offering diners an unforgettable experience



MUSCAT: This season, Intercontinental Muscat invites you on a vibrant culinary journey with the launch of Spice and Tales, a themed food night hosted every Monday at the newly renovated Musandam restaurant.

Set amidst the grandeur of this iconic venue, the menu celebrates the rich diversity of flavours from

across the Indian subcontinent, offering diners an unforgettable experience.

“We didn’t want to simply label it an ‘Indian night,’ as that wouldn’t capture the essence of what we’re creating,” shared Yousef Rahbi, Hotel Manager at Intercontinental Muscat. “With Spice and Tales, we’re celebrating the deep sto-

ries that emerge from every dish, evoking memories, traditions, and the shared experience of food. It’s about transporting our guests to the heart of these culinary journeys, set against the warm and inviting backdrop of the newly transformed Musandam. Each bite tells a tale, and we wanted the name to reflect that passion.”

Led by Executive Chef Austen Reid, who brings over 20 years of experience from his culinary adventures across the Middle East, “Spice and Tales” promises to deliver an authentic and immersive Indian dining experience. Chef Reid explains his inspiration, “The Indian palate is universal. From Omani favourites like biryani to

the vast regional dishes of India, we aim to satisfy the perennial desire for Indian cuisine.”

Musandam’s newly launched Indian night takes diners on a flavourful journey, offering a wide array of dishes from the southern coasts of Kerala to the spice-rich regions of the north.

Guests can enjoy a variety of mouthwatering dishes at the event, starting with a live street food station featuring chaats, crispy pakoras fried right before your eyes, and a tandoor station serving sizzling kababs and freshly baked breads. Classic favorites like biryani and Chicken Makhani are also on the menu, along with unique regional highlights such as flavorful curries from Kashmir, Bengal, Kerala, and Gujarat, as well as the comforting and traditional Curd Rice.

For dessert, indulge in treats like freshly made Jalebi, rich Gajar ka Halwa, and bite-sized kulfis crafted fresh on an ice plate. To complement your meal, try refreshing drinks like masala chasni or shikanji. With new dishes added each week, there’s always something exciting to try! The menu is curated by the talented and knowledgeable Chef Suvashis.

Chef Reid invites guests to interact with the talented chefs at each station to learn about the

unique ingredients, stories and techniques that go into crafting these dishes.

“We want to make dining an interactive experience. Guests can engage directly with our chefs, ask about the ingredients, and understand the stories behind each dish. It’s more than just dinner; it’s about creating memories through food. Think of the transcendent experience of eating biryani with your fingers – we want that feeling to accompany you for the whole evening,” Chef Austen Reid added.

The renovation of Musandam has infused the space with a modern elegance while preserving its beloved legacy. As one of Muscat’s most renowned dining destinations, Musandam’s revamp provides a refreshed yet familiar atmosphere where guests can enjoy the new thematic dining nights. In addition to Spice and Tales on Mondays, the restaurant will soon introduce a Levantine Night on Wednesdays and an Arabic Seafood Night on Thursdays, each showcasing a variety of regional cuisines. Musandam also offers an ala carte menu for guests.

Whether it’s the fragrant spices of India or the classic elegance of the restaurant’s ambiance, Spice and Tales offers a delightful dining experience for all.

PROMOTION



Akeed benefits on Toyota Camry

MUSCAT: Now is the right time to own the all-new Toyota Camry and enjoy exclusive Akeed benefits. Get Service from 2 Years / 20,000 kms up to 10 Years / 100,000 kms (whichever is earlier), Insurance 1 Year and chance to win 1 grand raffle – All-new Toyota Prado.

The campaign is valid up to 31st October 2024 (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Customers can visit any Saud Bahwan Automotive showroom for exact details.)

Since its debut in 1982 and evolution over nine generations, the Toyota Camry has been embraced around the world for its outstanding performance, alluring design and renowned quality and value. With its advanced yet seamless technology, modern styling, and an all-new Toyota Hybrid System, this model introduces a level of refinement that exceeds expectations, further cementing the Camry’s reputation as a class-leading vehicle.

The new Camry is built around the Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA-K) platform. This delivers excellent body rigidity and a low center of gravity, guaranteeing a more rewarding driving experience. To achieve a more exciting driving style, the new Toyota Camry comes with a choice of two powertrain options, including a 2.5-liter four-cylinder inline VVT-i engine that produces 201 hp and 240 nm of torque and is paired with an eight-speed Direct-Shift automatic transmission; and an electrified hybrid powertrain, which combines a petrol engine and two electric motors Delivering a combined power of 226 hp. It is also paired with an Electronically Controlled Continuously Variable Transmission (ECVT) delivering heightened driving pleasure. Drivers can also customize their Camry’s drive feel to suit their specific tastes with standard selectable NOR-

MAL, ECO and SPORT driving modes, along with an additional EV mode for HEV drivers. These options allow drivers to customize their Camry’s driving experience, achieving a driving sensation which feels more refined and connected to the road conditions.

The new Camry features a sleek, energetic and eye-catching exterior and feature-rich interior to promise an emotionally engaging driving experience. The front of the vehicle showcases a lowered Hammer Head design, accentuated by a broad lower grille that gives the Camry a wide and solid presence with an aggressive stance. Signature Bi-LED and multi-eye LED headlamps not only enhance its stylish look but also improve night-time visibility.

The new Camry’s interior is designed to exceed expectations in look, feel and usability. The cabin features a driver-centric cockpit with a sports car which encompasses the occupants. Combining comfort and convenience with a layer of luxury, the interior showcases high-quality materials, cohesive metal finishes, a harmonious layout of seats, instrument panel, and doors. Upholstery options include smooth leather and fabric in various colours to match the vehicle’s exterior. The new Camry’s distinctive interior design is complemented by a range of advanced features to enhance every passenger’s on-road experience. These include a 12.3-inch touchscreen multimedia system with wireless Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto compatibility, a 12.3-inch colour full-graphic meter or 7-inch colour display meter, a wireless charging system for smartphones, a colour head-up display (HUD), a digital rear-view mirror, a dual-zone automatic air conditioning system with rear AC vents, a 9-speaker JBL surround or a six-speaker sound system, a panoramic roof, multi-adjustable power and ventilated front seats, and 60/40 split and reclining rear seats.

FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

BankDhofar pays attention to women by providing exceptional banking services

MUSCAT: BankDhofar - the leading financial institution in the Sultanate of Oman - has given clear attention to women as a key partner in the comprehensive development process by providing specialised banking services to them to achieve financial independence, and enable them to manage their financial affairs, to make clear decisions regarding their financial ambitions.

BankDhofar provides a convenient and secure banking experience for women by enabling them to manage their financial affairs anytime and anywhere through several channels such as ATMs, online banking services, and an easy-to-use mobile application, designed to help women save more time and spend on suitable terms.

Women’s banking services provide a vertical and purple direct debit card with unique benefits, in addition to preferential rates on high returns of up to 4.15%, and a group of different deposit accounts that help women plan for their future, whether it is planning for retirement or saving for their children’s future.

BankDhofar has also recently launched a special credit card for



them to meet their daily needs, offering a range of services such as exemption from annual fees for the first year, and benefiting from exclusive rewards through the reward points program that can be redeemed through the mobile banking application or website, in addition to the wide-ranging benefits of the Visa card for women,

including access to airport lounges in Muscat and Salalah, and global acceptance in millions of locations around the world.

BankDhofar is also keen to empower Omani women in various administrative units, qualify them and provide them with the necessary skills for leadership as an active member in the bank’s suc-

cessful journey. The bank recently organized the Omani Women Leadership Forum, which emphasized the need to empower women in the financial and business sector, develop their talents to transform them into projects on the ground, and the importance of using the media to promote the brand of their projects.

The bank’s strategy revolves around providing an exceptional and unique experience to customers through distinctive and exclusive services and offers, and deepening existing relationships and retaining them. In addition to taking responsibility towards them, achieving cooperation between colleagues and working in a team spirit, in order to improve productivity and achieve the desired growth. Customers can open a ladies account directly through the mobile application or visit one of the bank’s branches, which number 129 branches distributed across all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. In addition to the ladies account, BankDhofar offers many savings accounts such as savings accounts for children, youth, minors, high return and recurring deposits.

GENERAL AUTOMOTIVE COMPANY

Mitsubishi introduces 18-month warranty on its genuine Mitsubishi Motors batteries

MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi Motors in Oman, announced that it is offering, for the first time in Oman, an industry-leading 18-month warranty on genuine Mitsubishi Motors batteries. This groundbreaking offer highlights GAC’s confidence in Mitsubishi Motors’ batteries and underscores their dedication to ensuring top-tier quality and unwavering reliability for every customer.

Genuine Mitsubishi Motors batteries are renowned for their superior performance, durability, and long-lasting power. Engineered to meet the power requirements of all passenger vehicles, these batteries ensure optimal engine startup, efficient electrical system operation, and overall vehicle performance, offering peace of mind like no other.

With their advanced technology and rigorous testing, Mitsubishi Motors batteries are engineered to withstand the toughest conditions and provide consistent power



der delivery. Coupled with the 18-month warranty, these batteries offer drivers a complete sense of security, knowing they can rely on

dependable performance and protection, mile after mile.

Highlighting the company’s commitment to quality, Manoj

Ranade, General Manager of GAC, stated, “We are proud to be the first in the market to offer an 18-month warranty on batteries.

“It is a testament to our trust in the exceptional quality of genuine Mitsubishi Motors batteries. Our customers deserve the best, and this warranty provides them with added peace of mind and reassurance that they are investing in a product that will deliver reliable performance for a long time to come.”

This 18-month warranty from Mitsubishi Oman goes beyond industry standards, reflecting the brand’s strong belief in the quality and reliability of genuine Mitsubishi Motors batteries.

Customers can now purchase these batteries with the assurance of a robust warranty, ensuring exceptional performance and a worry-free experience.

The 18-month warranty is offered with every purchase of Genuine Mitsubishi Motors battery at all 18 Mitsubishi Spare parts centers across Oman.

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat holds second edition of its educational camp to teach children about entrepreneurship

Topics discussed included learning to earn money, savings and budgeting, setting SMART goals, and giving back to society



MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, recently held the second edition of its BM Educational Camp – Ideathon Competition for more than 60 employees' children aged 12 to 15 years. The event was well-attended and interactive, with participants from across Oman.

The organization of this camp aligned with Bank Muscat's commitment to executing financial literacy programmes that focus on benefitting various segments of the society, including children. This year's camp focused on teaching youngsters the basics of entrepreneurship and innovation, as well as how to nurture and develop their skills. Topics discussed included learning to earn money, savings and budgeting, setting SMART goals, and giving back to society. Aside from the educational component, the main part of the

event was the Ideathon Competition, which focused on setting up the best business, while considering its social impact. The winners were announced and awarded at the end of the event.

This camp complements the ongoing work Bank Muscat's 'Maliyat Academy' upholds, which highlights financial literacy as an important concept to enhance planning and saving habits of individuals from a young age. The academy's programmes focus on providing students with the basic skills needed to manage various financial affairs, make wise spending decisions, and prepare them to be financially independent.

Reflecting on their participation, a number of children expressed their enthusiasm to be part of Bank Muscat's Educational Camp, which gave them an opportunity to broaden their knowl-



edge managing their finances and setting up a business idea. One of the participating children, Laith Adnan Al Balushi, said: "During the camp, I learned how to become more independent and develop my personal skills. I also gained experience on how to execute and con-

tinuously improve projects, which helped me see how I can enhance my future ideas and projects."

In addition, his sister, Layan, 13 years old, commented: "I was part of the team that won first place in the camp! I learned how to become a successful entrepreneur in the fu-

ture and how to use my wide imagination to present ideas that benefit and improve the community. This camp inspired me to think about how to take advantage of available opportunities to achieve my goals."

Reema Zahir Al Hashar, 14 years, said: "I appreciated the opportunity to think collectively with different people from different backgrounds. We received care and support from the bank's staff. Thank you."

Further, her sister Dana, 12 years, expressed her joy to participate in the camp, commenting: "I enjoyed the challenge of coming up with a business idea. The team members' thoughts were interesting and insightful. I look forward to participate in the bank's future events."

For Bank Muscat, this is an additional step to enhance its leading role in corporate social responsibility. The Bank fosters innovation by providing support for Omani youth and helping them develop their skills. The Bank is eager to continue participating in community events that promote the concept of voluntary work and social responsibility among members of society.

Bank Muscat is keen to reach out to all segments of society through various programmes and initiatives delivered throughout the year, including programs aimed at improving understanding about financial affairs management. "Maliyat", for example, focuses on several aspects of financial culture, like mastering financial principles and concepts such as financial planning, track of spending, investment, income, debt management, savings and long-term planning. "Irshad" program, however, offers financial coaching and guidance to SMEs, startup companies, entrepreneurs, and individuals on how to manage their finances and plan for the future.

KHAREEF SEASON



MHD Automobiles hosts first-ever Salalah test drive event for Jeep, Dodge, RAM and Alfa Romeo

MUSCAT: MHD Automobiles, the exclusive distributor for Jeep, Dodge, RAM, and Alfa Romeo in Oman, has successfully concluded its first-ever test drive event in Salalah.

Held during the Khareef season, the event took place at the prominent Belad Bont Hotel and showcased the latest models from these iconic brands. The event received an overwhelming response from residents in Salalah, as well as visitors from other parts of Oman, who were in town to experience the monsoon season.

The 3-day event featured a range of models, including the rugged Jeep Wrangler, the luxurious Jeep Grand Cherokee, the powerful

Dodge Durango, the sophisticated Alfa Romeo Tonale, and the robust RAM 1500 Limited. Customers were invited to book their test drives online in advance, arriving at their appointed times—many with their families and friends. This allowed them to learn more about the models and enjoy the unique experience of test driving their favorite vehicle in the refreshing Khareef weather, making for a truly memorable experience.

Commenting on the success of the event, Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD Automobiles, said, "We are thrilled with the incredible turnout at our first Salalah test drive event. The Khareef season provided the perfect backdrop for

customers to experience the exceptional performance, advanced technology, and unique features of our Jeep, Dodge, RAM, and Alfa Romeo vehicles. This event is a testament to our commitment to bringing unparalleled automotive experiences to our customers in Oman."

After test driving the vehicles, many customers expressed further interest in purchasing these cars, reinforcing the event's success in generating strong leads and enthusiasm for the brands.

MHD Automobiles remains dedicated to providing customers with opportunities to engage with their favorite brands in exciting and innovative ways.

17TH STORE IN OMAN

Nesto Hypermarket expands its presence in Oman with new Bilad Mall in Mabelah

MUSCAT: Nesto Hypermarket, a leading regional retail chain, announced the grand opening of its 17th store in Oman and its 129th globally. The new hypermarket is located in the heart of Mabelah on Salam Street. The new outlet, branded as "Bilad Mall," is set to open its doors to the public on September 18 at 12pm.

This new Nesto hypermarket offers a truly exceptional shopping experience, encompassing a spacious 215,000 Sq. Ft. built-up area and boasting:

- 40 checkout counters for efficient and streamlined service.
- Opulent interior design and a user-friendly store layout ensuring ease of navigation and a pleasurable shopping atmosphere.
- Nesto Home: A dedicated section featuring a wide variety of home furnishing and décor products.
- Ample parking: With over 750 parking slots, finding a convenient spot is a breeze.
- Tenant shops: Offering a diverse range of additional stores to cater to your every need.

More than just shopping

Nesto hypermarket at Bilad Mall aspires to be a one-stop destination for the entire community. Beyond the exceptional shopping experience, the mall will also feature:

- Kids Play Center (Fun today): A dedicated space for children's entertainment (opening in



a few weeks).

Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian Restaurants: Offering delicious dining options for all preferences (opening in a month).

Sky Hall: A multipurpose hall ideal for gatherings and events (opening in a month).

Committed growth in Oman

Nesto hypermarket is firmly committed to expanding its presence in Oman. This latest opening marks a significant milestone, and with five more projects planned for the next two years, the company demonstrates its dedication to serving the Omani community.

Delegation of dignitaries to attend the occasion:

The grand opening ceremony will be attended by the presence of His Highness Al Sayid Faher Fatik Al Said. This is a testament to Nesto's dedication to contributing to the growth and

development of Oman.

The press conference announcing the grand opening will be hosted by members of the Nesto leadership team, including: Haris Palollathil, Regional Director, Mujeeb VTK, Regional Director, Hamed Al Wahabi, HR Director, Mussavir Mustafa, Group commercial head, ShahalShoukath, HR country head, Maskari, HR Operations Manager, Shaji Abdulla, Regional Operations Manager – Muscat, Shamsudheen, Regional Operations Manager -Batina, Noushad KV, Buying Head-FM-CG, Sameer Abdul Salam, Finance Manager, Haris H H, Regional Media & Marketing Manager.

Nesto hypermarket warmly invites the media and the public to attend the grand opening ceremony and experience the excitement of Bilad Mall. Get ready to discover a world of exceptional shopping, convenient services, and a vibrant community space.



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In the story The Little Prince, a young boy travels across the universe. What flower on his home planet does he never stop loving and missing?

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