



HM THE SULTAN RECEIVES THANKS CABLE FROM PRESIDENT OF ALGERIA
MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received a cable of thanks from President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of Algeria in reply to His Majesty's congratulatory cable on being re-elected for a new presidential term. In the cable, President Abdelmadjid Tebboune expressed his appreciation for His Majesty's sincere sentiments. He also expressed his pride over the distinguished relations binding the two countries and their peoples. President Tebboune also expressed his keenness to develop bilateral relations in all fields to serve joint interests. — **ONA**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Oman hails Macron's call to stop arms supply

1 Oman has welcomed the French President's call to stop supplying weapons to Israelis during the ongoing fighting in the Gaza Strip. "Oman considers this call an important step within the context of international efforts aimed to stop the escalating war." **>A3**

OMAN

New batch of ROP personnel graduates

2 The ROP celebrated the passing out of a new batch of police recruits and female police officers. The ceremony took place at the military parade ground in the Wilayat of Nizwa. **>A4**

MARKET

Commerce minister holds meeting

3 Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion held a meeting at the ministry's headquarters with a French business delegation. **>B1**

PACTS WORTH MILLIONS SIGNED TO BUILD SULTAN HAITHAM CITY

Eighty agreements worth over OMR200 million signed at Urban October Conference

MUSCAT: Urban October Conference and Home & Building Expo kicked off on Monday with a wide participation from international investors and consultants in the fields of urban planning and real estate development. The opening of the 3-day event was held under the patronage of HH Sayyid Taimour Asa'ad Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO). During the conference, six partnership and cooperation agreements were signed as part of the first phase of Sultan Haitham City, with a total value exceeding OMR70 million. Additionally, an agreement was signed for the fifth package to establish networks for electricity, water, sewage, irrigation, broadband, telecommunications, and district cooling services, with an investment value exceeding OMR82.7 million. The project, to be completed within 24 months, will be implemented by Towell Infrastructure Company. For the fourth package of Sultan Haitham City, an agreement was signed to construct main roads, tunnels, and culverts with an investment value of OMR63.2 million. This project, awarded to



Sarooj Construction Company, is set to be completed in 30 months. Furthermore, an agreement was signed to build three transformer stations (11/33 kV) within the sixth package, covering an area of 7,500 square meters in districts 6, 8, and 9 of Sultan Haitham City, with an investment value exceeding OMR6 million. The project will be carried out by Al Faniah Oman Company within 15 months. An agreement was also signed

to establish integrated service stations with an investment value exceeding OMR6 million, covering an area of 6,200 square metres, as part of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs' Al Birr and Al Ihsan project. Additionally, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed to allocate a land plot exceeding 8,000 square meters for the Security and Safety Services Foundation in Residential District No. 17 at Sultan Haitham City. **>A5**

GAZA DEATH TOLL
as of October 7, 2024

Deaths 41,909
Injured 97,303



BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The Times of Oman 'Business Leadership Summit 2024' will explore the innovative leadership practices driving business success and sustainability. The premier event will bring together senior government officials, international experts, top business owners, leading CEOs, SMEs and industry leaders. Attendees can look forward to thought-provoking discussions, invaluable networking opportunities and the celebration of outstanding leadership achievements.



GUEST OF HONOUR & KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
His Excellency Qais Al Yousef
Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion

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- Embracing digital transformation
- Fostering innovation and creativity
- Building sustainable business models
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- Cultivating talent and leadership development
- Integrating ESG principles in business planning
- Expanding global market reach

Co-located: Times of Oman 'Business Leadership Awards'

The Times of Oman Business Leadership Awards will celebrate exceptional achievers in Oman's business landscape, honouring outstanding companies, visionary business owners, exemplary CEOs and innovative SMEs. Recognizing leadership excellence across industries, these awards will highlight achievements that drive economic growth, foster innovation and inspire others in the pursuit of business excellence.

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- Entrepreneur of the Year
- Global Omani of the Year
- Businesswoman of the Year
- SME of the Year
- Company of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement

FOR MORE EVENT DETAILS, CONTACT

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 TimesBusinessLeadershipSummit



Oman ICU delirium risk revealed: Study calls for immediate healthcare action

Over one-quarter of ICU patients in Oman are affected by this often-overlooked condition



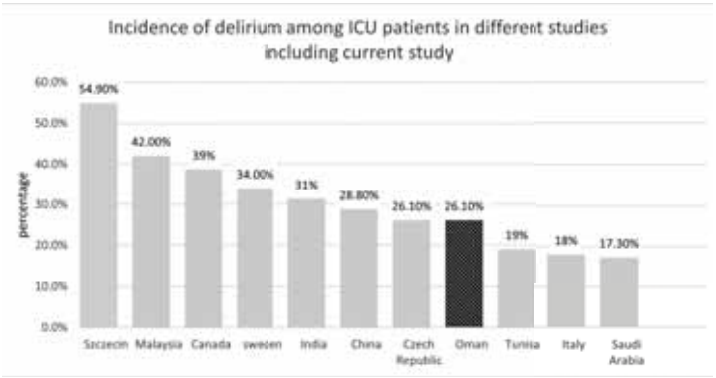
Dr. Eilean Lazarus Rathinasamy



Prof. Omar Al Omari



Rasha Khamis Hamdan Al Hoodar



MUSCAT: A groundbreaking study conducted in Oman has revealed alarming rates of delirium among intensive care unit (ICU) patients, underscoring the urgent need for better prevention and management strategies.

The research, conducted by Rasha Khamis Hamdan Al Hoodar, a staff nurse at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, has been hailed as the first of its kind in the Sultanate to explore the incidence and impact of delirium in ICUs.

It found that over one-quarter of ICU patients in Oman are affected by this often-overlooked condition, which can significantly worsen health outcomes.

The study, "Incidence, associated factors, and outcomes of delirium among patients admitted to ICUs in Oman," was conducted as part of Al Hoodar's MSN thesis and was supervised by Dr.

Eilean Lazarus Rathinasamy, Assistant Professor at the College of Nursing, Sultan Qaboos University, alongside co-supervisor Prof. Omar Al Omari, Professor at the Department of Fundamentals and Administration, College of Nursing, Sultan Qaboos University.

It is the first comprehensive research project to delve into delirium within Omani hospitals, providing critical data on a condition that is known to increase ICU stays, healthcare costs, and patient mortality if left untreated.

A serious but overlooked issue

"Delirium affects up to 50% of older hospitalised patients globally and nearly 80% of those in ICUs," explained Dr. Rathinasamy. "In Oman, the condition has

received little research attention despite its significant implications for patient health and healthcare costs."

The study, conducted over three months at two major hospitals—Sultan Qaboos University Hospital and Royal Hospital—involved 153 ICU patients.

The research aimed to identify the incidence of delirium, its predisposing and precipitating factors, and its impact on ICU length of stay and mortality rates.

Using the validated Intensive Care Delirium Screening Checklist (ICDSC), the study revealed that 26.1% of patients developed delirium, with several key factors linked to its occurrence, including sepsis, mechanical ventilation, sedation, metabolic acidosis, and the use of nasogastric tubes.

Significant findings and recommendations

The findings were striking: patients with delirium experienced notably longer ICU stays and higher mortality rates compared to those without. Delirium was also positively associated with the severity of illness, as indicated by the APACHE II and SOFA scores, which are used to measure the severity of disease and organ failure in ICU patients.

"Sepsis, metabolic acidosis, and the use of nasogastric tubes were strong predictors of delirium," Dr. Rathinasamy noted, emphasising that these findings provide crucial insights into preventing and managing the condition.

In response to the findings, the study recommends several strategies to reduce the incidence and impact of delirium in Oman's ICUs.

Key among these is the routine daily screening of ICU patients using validated tools, along with the implementation of the ABCDE Bundle, a comprehensive care approach that includes awakening and breathing coordination, delirium monitoring, and early mobility. The study also stresses the need for enhanced training programmes in both Arabic and English for ICU staff, along with annual competency assessments.

Shaping healthcare policy

The study's authors also call for multidisciplinary collaboration in ICU care, with an emphasis on minimising physical restraints, promoting early mobilisation, and ensuring timely weaning from sedation. These measures are expected to not only improve patient outcomes but also significantly reduce the financial burden on healthcare systems in Oman.

"Delirium is a serious syndrome that needs to be recognized as such by the ICU team. Changing ICU culture to prioritise delirium management can lead to better patient care and reduce ICU stays and costs," said Dr. Rathinasamy.

The study's findings were published in two prestigious journals, Anesthesiology Research and Practice and Critical Care Research and Practice. It was supported by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation's Publication Support Programme, which aims to promote high-quality research publication in Oman.

NEW ROUTE

Oman Air to launch direct flights to Rome

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Air has made its most significant new route announcement in the last five years with the launch of flights between Rome and Muscat.

Seamless connectivity

Starting 20 December 2024, the airline will operate four weekly flights, offering the first-ever direct connection between Rome and the Omani capital city, while also providing seamless connectivity across its expansive network, including the Far East, GCC, Indian Subcontinent and more.

With one-way fares starting from just EUR150, it's the perfect opportunity to explore new destinations while experiencing Oman Air's award-winning service and signature Omani hospitality.

"Our new direct service between Rome and Muscat represents an exciting step in our growth. Mark-

ing our second destination in Italy, [the first being Milan], this key route not only enhances our footprint in Europe, but also marks the start of our strategy to maximise the utilisation of our narrow-body fleet," said Con Korfiatis, CEO of Oman Air.

"We are thrilled to introduce the beautiful city of Muscat to a whole new market, as well as offer seamless and convenient access to destinations beyond."

Guests can fly with Oman Air from Rome to Muscat on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

The outbound flight departs from Rome at 2030 and arrives in Muscat at 0545, while the return flight departs from Muscat at 1500 and arrives in Rome at 1930.

From its hub in Muscat, the airline also offers seamless connectivity to destinations like Bangkok, Phuket, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, and many more.

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE



Pakistan School Seeb celebrates foundation stone laying ceremony for state-of-the-art Mabelah branch



MUSCAT: Pakistan School Muscat-Seeb branch held the foundation stone laying ceremony for its new Mabelah branch, marking a significant milestone in the school's expansion and commitment to providing world-class education to the Pakistani community in Oman.

The ceremony was graced by high-ranking officials from both the Pakistani and Omani communities, as well as government representatives from both nations, including Chaudhary Salik Hussain (Federal Minister Overseas Pakistanis and Resource Development, Additional Portfolio: Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony), Dr. Khadija Ali Muhammad Al Salami (Director

General of Private Schools – Ministry of Education), His Excellency Imran Ali Chaudry (Pakistan's Ambassador to Oman), Mohammed Essa Al Zedjali (Chairman, Times of Oman), His Excellency Shaiful Anual Mohammad (Ambassador of Malaysia), His Excellency Muhammet Hekimoğlu (Ambassador of Turkey), Ameer Hamza (Chairman BoDs, Pakistan Schools in Oman), Iftikhar Ahmed (President, School Management Committee), and various representatives of the Pakistan Embassy.

The event underscored the strong bilateral ties between Pakistan and Oman and the shared commitment to fostering educational excellence.

The Mabelah branch, spread across an expansive 8,000 sqm campus, promises to be a beacon of modern education.

The built-up area of 17,376 sqm will house 70 spacious classrooms, equipped with cutting-edge technology and facilities to cater to over 2800 students. The school's design emphasises sustainability, with solar panels installed on the roof to harness renewable energy.

"We are thrilled to embark on this exciting new chapter in the Pakistan School Seeb's journey," said Ameer Hamza, Chairman, Board of Directors Pakistan Schools in Oman. "The Mabelah branch represents our dedication to providing a nurturing and

enriching learning environment that prepares our students for success in the 21st century."

The Foundation Stone Laying ceremony was marked by a ceremonial laying of the foundation stone by the chief guest, Chaudhary Salik Hussain, accompanied by other dignitaries.

The event concluded with a tour of the construction site, offering a glimpse into the school's promising future. Pakistan School Seeb has a long-standing reputation for academic excellence and a strong sense of community. The Mabelah branch aims to build upon this legacy, offering a comprehensive curriculum, extracurricular activities, and a focus on character development.

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Oman hails call to stop arms supply to Israel

The French President had called to stop supplying weapons to Israeli occupation forces during the ongoing fighting in the Gaza Strip



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has welcomed the French President's call to stop supplying weapons to Israeli occupation forces during the ongoing fighting in the Gaza Strip. "Oman considers this call an important step within the context of international efforts aimed to stop the escalating war and protect innocent civilians from the impacts of the conflict," said Oman in a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry on Monday. The statement stressed that the international community should

take firm stands to stop the violence and terminate military escalation in the region. It called for adherence to international and humanitarian law, including the "cessation of all forms of military support that fuel the conflict and prolong human suffering". The Sultanate of Oman urged all parties to resort to dialogue and endorse a just and comprehensive political solution that guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, most notably the establishment of their

independent state with Al Quds Al Sharqiyah (East Jerusalem) as its capital, in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions. French President Emmanuel Macron had "personally told the Iranian president of France's commitment to Israel's security. At the same time, Macron believes "the urgent need is to avoid the escalation of tensions in the region," including an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the Elysee was quoted as saying. "It is in this context that the President calls for an end to arms

exports intended for use in Gaza," Macron's office said. "We must return to diplomatic solutions," the office said. In a video message on Sunday, Macron had called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza as well as in Lebanon. "An immediate ceasefire is essential in Gaza as in Lebanon. We must avoid the escalation of tensions, protect civilian populations, free the hostages and find political solutions necessary for the security of Israel and all," Macron said. -With inputs from agencies

Sayyid Badr and UK counterpart hold talks



MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister on Monday received a phone call from David Lammy, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom (UK). The two ministers discussed the historical and strategic relations between the two countries and the keenness to continue developing economic interests and in the energy fields, including renewable energy, in addition to security and defense cooperation. The two sides discussed the regional developments, stressing the need to intensify regional and international efforts to stop the military escalation and prevent the deterioration of the humanitarian situation. The two sides also expressed their concern over the increas-

ing number of civilian casualties in Lebanon and in the Palestinian territories, especially the Gaza Strip, as well as the increasing risks to the stability of the region. The two ministers underscored the importance of collective action within the framework of the international community's responsibilities to achieve and establish a comprehensive and just political solution to the Palestinian cause as a basis for security and stability in the region. They underlined the need to open urgent and safe humanitarian corridors for relief supplies to the Gaza Strip, back and empower the Palestinian National Authority, and resume full international support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). -ONA

MARITIME SECURITY CENTRE

Indian military official visits MSC

MUSCAT: Vice Admiral Vennam Srinivas, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Naval Command of the Republic of India and his accompanying military delegation on Monday visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC). The guests were received upon their arrival at the centre by Commodore Adil Hamoud Al Busaidi, Head of the Maritime Security

Centre. Members of the visiting delegation were briefed on the tactical roles and tasks carried out by the centre in the safety of the Omani maritime environment. They also toured the centre's facilities and viewed its latest equipment and technologies used in carrying out its national duties. -ONA



TENDER BOARD

Delegation from Bahrain

MUSCAT: Eng. Badr Salim Al Maamari, Secretary General of the Tender Board yesterday received a delegation from the Kingdom of Bahrain. The visiting delegation is headed by Jamal Abdulaziz Al Alawi, Secretary General of Bahrain Tender Board. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed partnerships and

cooperation opportunities in the tenders field. They also discussed means of enhancing cooperation. The visiting delegation lauded the Sultanate of Oman's role in augmenting the efficiency of government spending for projects and procurements. They also praised Oman's role in boosting local content and developing SMEs. -ONA

OMAN'S LARGEST HISTORICAL IPO



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MUSCAT

ROP celebrates passing out of new batch of police recruits

The function was held under the auspices of Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy

NIZWA: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) on Monday celebrated the passing out of a new batch of police recruits and female police officers. The ceremony took place at the military parade ground of the Police Recruits Institute at the Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences in the Wilayat of Nizwa. It was held under the auspices of Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy.

The passing out batch gave the salute to the chief guest. Then, the commander of the column asked the chief guest to inspect the front row of the parade. The batch passed in front of the dais in the parade formation. Later, the chief guest handed out awards to the top graduates. The graduates played the Royal Oman Police anthem and chanted thrice: "Long live His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander." The ceremony concluded with a military salute to the chief guest. Then, the commander of the column asked permission to leave the parade ground. The ceremony was attended by Lt. Gen. Hassan Mohsin Al Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, senior officers of the ROP and military and security units, directors of government institutions and department in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate and parents of the graduates. — ONA



CEREMONY

Egyptian embassy marks 6th of October anniversary

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Egypt's Defence Attache in the Sultanate of Oman celebrated on Sunday the 6th of October anniversary by organising a reception at Grand Millennium-Muscat Hotel, under the patronage of the guest of honour Brigadier Yasser bin Khalifa Said Al Talabi in the presence of Khalid Radhi, the ambassador of to the Sultanate'

Mohammed Abdulmoneim, political advisor at the embassy of Egypt in Muscat; advisor Ahmed Shuaib deputy to the ambassador and Mana Dhiya the consul at the embassy attended the function.

The ceremony was also attended by a number of their highnesses, senior officers at the Sultan's



Armed Forces (SAF), diplomats and military attaches accredited to the Sultanate, members of the embassy of Egypt in Muscat and members of the Egyptian Community in Oman. In his speech, Captain Harb Mohammed Jumah Ghali, the Egyptian Defence Attache

, said that the 6th of October anniversary will remain vivid in the heart and mind of each Egyptian and Arab national and a source of pride for them.

He said that peace always requires power to protect it, which is why the Egyptian army has



worked on the modernisation of all its units and corps coupled with training of its personnel to face any probable challenges.

Egypt has the rationale that enables it to use its power for the sake of justice and to stand by the side of brotherly and friendly

countries regardless of any difficulties and challenges that may occur, he said.

The Egyptian- Omani relations are deep-rooted and dated back to over 3,500 years and witnesses remarkable developments at all spheres, he said, adding that the

fruitful cooperation between the two countries reaffirms the strong ties between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Sultanate of Oman, under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and President Abdel Fattah El Sisi.

SULTAN HAITHAM CITY

FROM A1 Agreement signed to develop smart cities

Further, a cooperation agreement was signed to develop the technological framework for smart cities within Sultan Haitham City.

The patron of the event, HH Sayyid Taimour Asa'ad Al Said inaugurated new neighbourhoods in Sultan Haitham City. This included the launch of Al-Nuha Neighbourhood (A13), developed by Tibiaan Real Estate on an area of over 58,000 square metres, comprising 116 residential units with an investment value exceeding OMR13.4 million.

Additionally, the identity of the Yanayer Neighbourhood (D12), developed by Idraak Properties was unveiled. It covers an area of more than 56,000 square metres and includes 339 residential units with an investment value exceeding OMR38.7 million.

As part of the sales launch, the sales of Sarooj Oasis Neighbourhood (A13), developed by Sarooj Construction Company, were announced. This neighbourhood includes 278 residential units spanning an area of more than 86,000 square metres with an investment value exceeding OMR31.6 million.

Moreover, the sales for Al-Wafaa Neighbourhood (Phase 2), developed by Al Abrar Real Estate LLC, were launched. This project covers more than 770,000 square metres and consists of 1,644 residential units with an investment value exceeding OMR208 million.

The conference focuses on six main themes, which feature more than 40 papers presented by prominent local and interna-



tional experts in urban planning and related fields. Moreover, it will host over 60 local and international speakers and showcase successful global experiences in urban planning.

The first day of the conference addressed the theme of "Engaging Youth in Planning," highlighting the importance of early investment in involving young in urban planning to contribute to the creation of a better urban future.

It also discusses the role of architectural competitions in developing youth skills and competencies. The second theme addressed the topic of "Recreation in Cities". This theme included papers that emphasize the role of recreation in making cities vibrant, the emotional connection between space and cities, and the importance of creating lively places within urban environments.

An exhibition is held on the sidelines of the conference.

The exhibition features 40 pavilions that showcase models of

future projects, including Sultan Haitham City, the Khuwair Downtown project, and the Muscat Structural Plan, along with comprehensive residential community projects.

Additionally, the Home and Construction Exhibition was inaugurated. It features 190 exhibitors from 13 countries, presenting a wide range of innovative products, services, and solutions in the fields of building acquisition, construction, design, decoration, and renovation for homes and buildings.

As part of the ministry's efforts toward digital transformation, 23 electronic services in the urban planning sector were launched at the conference on the "Amalak" platform. This launch aims to facilitate the provision of services in a comprehensive and digital manner for beneficiaries, including subdivision, separation, and extension services, along with other land-related services. -ONA

AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING

Oman participates in meeting of GCC financial audit institutions



DOHA: The Sultanate of Oman yesterday took part in the 21st meeting of heads of GCC accounting and financial audit institutions. The meeting was held in Doha, State of Qatar.

Oman's delegation was headed by Sheikh Ghuson Hilal Al Alawi, Chairman of the State Audit Institution (SAI).

In a speech at the meeting, Al Alawi valued the efforts made to ensure the success of the meeting. He expressed his appreciation to the GCC Secretariat General for its vital role in preparing, organising and following up all activities and events that serve the common

interests of the member states.

The meeting discussed a number of topics.

They referred to the winning research in the GCC competition for research and studies in the field of audit and accounting.

They also exchanged views about a proposal to hold a youth forum to highlight the functions and features GCC audit and accounting institutions.

The participants also looked into final drafts on updating the GCC financial control guide, as well as a guide on disaster and crisis management.

The meeting also dealt with a

plan to enhance cooperation and partnership with the" International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions" (INTOSAI) and a related "INTOSAI Development Initiative" (IDI).

The participants also studied recommendations made during the 36th meeting of the Training and Development Committee. They discussed a briefing on training programmes conducted over the past months in 2024.

They also discussed the signing of memoranda of understanding with the INTOSAI Development Initiative and the King Fahd National Library. -ONA



غرفة تجارة وصناعة عُمان
OMAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
فرع محافظة مسندم

Announcement of Tender

Musandam Branch of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry announces the tender for the design and implementation of the (Businessmen's Council) at the Musandam Branch of the Chamber.

Tender No.	Tender Name	Tender Documents Fees (Nonrefundable)	Applying Companies	Last day for purchase of tender	Last day for submission of bids
02/2024	Design and construction of Business Council in Musandam Branch of Chamber of Commerce and Industry	RO 25	Companies and corporations of contracting works	22 October 2024	05 November 2024

Tender Conditions:

Licensed and specialized companies engaged in the activity mentioned above can obtain the tender booklet from the Chamber's branch office in Musandam in the Wilayat of Khasab or from the branch office in the Wilayat of Dibba.

Tender Conditions:

The offers/bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes, stamped with red wax, addressed to the Chairman of the Main Purchasing Committee - the Chamber of Commerce and Industry branch in Musandam Governorate. The envelope should include the tender number and subject, without mentioning the name of the bidder.

A temporary security deposit (1%) of the bid value, in the form of a bank guarantee or a certified cheque, must be attached, issued by one of the banks operating in the Sultanate, valid for 120 days from the last submission date, addressed to the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Offers/bids that do not meet the security deposit requirement will not be considered. The offers/bids must be placed in the tender box at the Chamber's branch office in Musandam, Wilayat of Khasab, or the branch office in the Wilayat of Dibba.

The Chamber is not obligated to accept the lowest bid or any other bid and reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without providing reasons.

The deadline for submission of bids is Tuesday, 05 November 2024, at 2:00 PM. Offers received after this date will not be accepted.

For inquiries, you can contact the following numbers: 26730229. Or via email: mohammed.shihhi@omanchamber.om Fatma.shehhi@omanchamber.om



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- Proactively communicate project updates to stakeholders, including the client, project sponsor, and other interested parties.
- Resolve any disputes or claims that may arise during the contract.

2. Qualifications, Experience & Skills

- Bachelor's degree in Engineering, project management, Business management or a related field.
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- Omani's preferred

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US duo Victor Ambros, Gary Ruvkun win 2024 Nobel Prize for medicine

The Karolinska Institutet awarded the Prize to the scientists for their groundbreaking discovery in the small worm *C. elegans*, which has revealed a completely new principle of gene regulation

STOCKHOLM: The 2024 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine has been awarded to Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun for their discovery of microRNA, a new class of tiny RNA molecules that play a crucial role in gene regulation.

The Nobel Prize committee announced the prestigious honour in Sweden on Monday.

The Karolinska Institutet awarded the Prize to the scientists for their groundbreaking discovery in the small worm *C. elegans*, which has revealed a completely new principle of gene regulation. The Nobel Assembly said in a press release.

This turned out to be essential for multicellular organisms, including humans. MicroRNAs are proving to be fundamentally important for how organisms develop and function.

This year's medicine laureates Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun studied a relatively unassuming 1 mm long roundworm, *C. elegans*.

Despite its small size, *C. elegans* possesses many specialised cell types such as nerve and muscle cells also found in larger, more complex animals, making it a useful model for investigating how tissues develop and mature in multicellular organisms.

In 1993, this year's Nobel Prize



laureates published unexpected findings describing a new level of gene regulation, which turned out to be highly significant and conserved throughout evolution.

The information stored within our chromosomes can be likened to an instruction manual for all cells in our body.

Every cell contains the same chromosomes, so every cell contains exactly the same set of genes and exactly the same set of instructions.

This year's Laureates Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun were interested in how different cell types develop.

How different cell types, such as muscle and nerve cells, have very distinct characteristics and how these differences arise?

The answer lies in gene regula-

tion, which allows each cell to select only the relevant instructions. This ensures that only the correct set of genes is active in each cell type.

If gene regulation goes awry, it can lead to serious diseases such as cancer, diabetes, or autoimmunity. Understanding the regulation of gene activity has been an important goal for many decades, the Nobel committee said.

Incidentally, in the late 1980s, both Ambros and Ruvkun were postdoctoral fellows in the laboratory of Robert Horvitz, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2002, alongside Sydney Brenner and John Sulston.

Ambros was born in 1953 in Hanover, New Hampshire, US and received his PhD from Massachusetts Institute of Technology

(MIT), Cambridge, MA, in 1979 where he also did postdoctoral research 1979-1985.

He became a Principal Investigator at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA in 1985.

He was Professor at Dartmouth Medical School from 1992-2007 and he is now Silverman Professor of Natural Science at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA.

Meanwhile, Ruvkun was born in Berkeley, California, US in 1952. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 1982 and was a post-doctoral fellow at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA, 1982-1985.

He became a Principal Investigator at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School in 1985, where he is now Professor of Genetics.

The medicine prize has been awarded 114 times to a total of 227 laureates. Only 13 women have won been awarded the prize. Physiology or Medicine was the third prize category that Alfred Nobel mentioned in his will.

Since 1901, the medicine laureates have been selected by the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet.

Nobel announcements continue with the physics prize on Tuesday, chemistry on Wednesday and literature on Thursday. The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced Friday and the economics award on October 14. — ANI



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LECTURE

NDC hosts Secretary General of Arab League



MUSCAT: The National Defence College (NDC), Academy of Strategic and Defence Studies, on Monday hosted Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General of the Arab League, who delivered a lecture titled "Regional and International Variables and their Impact on Joint Arab Action".

The lecture formed part of the curriculum of the 12th National Defence Course.

Rear Admiral Ali Abdullah Al Shidi, Commandant of the National Defence College, welcomed the Secretary-General of the Arab League. He expressed his appreciation for the Secretary-General's constant keenness to expand the knowledge of the NDC course participants through his lectures.

In his lecture, the Secretary-

General of the Arab League spoke about the current international situation and its impact on joint Arab action.

He pointed out that regional and international variables and events influence the functioning of the Arab League. The lecture also dealt with the obstacles and incentives for joint Arab action, as well as modern technology and its impact on the concepts of war.

In conclusion, the Secretary-General of the Arab League replied to queries raised by participants in the 12th National Defence Course.

The lecture was attended by senior officers of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and representatives of military and security units, the NDC and civil departments. — ONA



4TH SESSION

Oman, Romania hold political consultations



BUCHAREST: The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Romania yesterday held the 4th session of political consultations in Bucharest.

The Omani side was headed by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, while Traian Laurențiu Hristea, Secretary of State for Global Affairs and Diplomatic Strategies of Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, headed his country's side.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations in the fields of investment, commercial exchange, education and information tech-

nology. They also looked into scopes for opening a direct flight route between Muscat and Bucharest, and exchanged views on various regional and international issues of common interest.

The session was attended by Florin Marius Tacu, Ambassador of the Republic of Romania to the Sultanate of Oman, and a number of officials from both sides.

Various aspects of bilateral co-operation between the two friendly countries were discussed by Al Harthy and Dan Dragoș Drăgan, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Energy in Romania.

— ONA

DELEGATION-LEVEL TALKS

Maldives president thanks India for \$360mn support, \$400mn bilateral currency swap pact

NEW DELHI: Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu on Monday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Indian government's decision to provide support in the form of Rs30 billion (USD 360 mn), in addition to \$400 million bilateral currency swap agreement.

"I am thankful for the Indian Government's decision to provide support in the form of 30 billion Indian Rupees in addition to 400 million US Dollars bilateral currency swap agreement which will be instrumental in addressing the foreign exchange issues we are facing right now," Muizzu said.

PM Modi and Muizzu held bilateral and delegation-level talks at Hyderabad House in the national capital on Monday.

Following the talks India on Monday granted cash-strapped Maldives a USD100 million Treasury bills roll over, in addition to both sides inking a USD 400 million and Rs 3,000 crore currency swap agreement.

Describing the "development partnership" as an important pillar of New Delhi-Male ties, Prime Minister Modi asserted that India has always given preference to the priorities of the people of Maldives.

Prime Minister Modi said, "Development partnership is an important pillar of our (India-Maldives) relations. We have always given preference to the priorities of the people of Maldives. This year, SBI did a rollover of 100 million dollars of the Treasury Bench of Maldives. As per the needs of the Maldives, a 400 million dollars



and Rs 3000 crore currency swap agreement was also signed..."

In September, India announced that the State Bank of India would subscribe Maldivian government bonds of USD 50 billion. Earlier in May 2024, SBI had similarly subscribed a USD 50 mn T-bills under same mechanism, again on the request of the Government of Maldives. In addition, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Mohamed Muizzu witnessed the first transaction of RuPay card payments launched in the Maldives.

The two leaders also virtually inaugurated the runway of Hanimaadhoo International Airport in the island nation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India and Maldives will be connected through UPI in

times to come. "A few days back, RuPay card was launched in Maldives. In the time to come, India and Maldives will be connected through UPI," PM Modi said in a joint press statement along with President Muizzu at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.

PM Modi further said that the island country holds an important position in India's neighbourhood policy and SAGAR vision.

He underlined that India is Maldives' nearest neighbour and close friend.

"First of all, I extend a hearty welcome to President Muizzu and his delegation. India and Maldives relations are centuries old. India is Maldives' nearest neighbour and close friend. Maldives holds an important position in our neighbourhood policy and SA-

GAR vision," PM Modi said.

Muizzu who arrived in India on Sunday on an inaugural five-day visit was accorded a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan earlier on Monday.

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the Maldivian President and First Lady Sajidha Mohamed as they arrived at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Muizzu also met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday here in the national capital. "Jaishankar expressed his pleasure in welcoming the President to India, for the state visit.

This is Muizzu's second visit to India this year after attending the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this June. — ANI

Israeli occupation forces expand military restrictions in West Bank

The Israeli occupation forces closed all military checkpoints leading to the occupied city of Jerusalem and the 1948 territories, meanwhile the vicinity of the city of Jerusalem witnessed a traffic jam

GAZA: The Israeli occupation forces tightened their military measures on Monday at most of the entrances to several governorates in the West Bank. Local sources reported that the occupation tightened its measures around Ramallah and Al-Bireh, as the occupation closed the Atara checkpoint, and continued to close the northern entrance to the city of Al-Bireh, and the Nabi Saleh Gate. The Israeli occupation forces closed all military checkpoints leading to the occupied city of Jerusalem and the 1948 territories, meanwhile the vicinity of the city of Jerusalem witnessed a traffic jam. The occupation forces also set



up several military checkpoints at the entrances to Hebron and its towns, villages and camps, and closed a number of main and secondary roads with iron gates, cement cubes and earthen mounds. The Israeli occupation forces also closed the Tayasir and Al-Hamra checkpoints leading to the Jordan Valley, in both directions, on Monday morning. The Israeli occupation authorities continued to tighten their siege on the city of Nablus by closing a number of military checkpoints and tightening measures at other checkpoints around the city. Local sources added that the occupation forces shut off several checkpoints completely this morning, while tightening inspection and restrictions on other checkpoints, deepening the siege imposed on the West Bank gover-

norates, separating the north from the south. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) issues on Monday a press release on the occasion of the World Habitat Day and Arab Housing Day Titled: "Enhancing Participation and Transparency in Urban Planning" The first Monday of October of each year coincides with the World Habitat Day, decided by the United Nations / UN-HABITAT, and the Arab Housing Day, based on the decision of the Council of Arab Ministers of Housing and Reconstruction. The Council decided the theme of the Arab Housing Day for 2024 to be "Enhancing Participation and Transparency in Urban Planning". On this occasion, PCBS presented the main indicators for housing and housing conditions in Pales-

tine that are related to the Sustainable Development Indicators. The number of housing units partially damaged as a result of the Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip since 07/10/2023 amounted to about 297,000 housing units, while the completely demolished housing units amounted to 87,000 housing units, according to data published on PCBS website about the Israeli occupation aggression against Palestine since October 7th, 2023. Data from the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) indicated that the number of buildings damaged as a result of the Israeli occupation aggression against Gaza Strip since 07/10/2023 amounted to about 156,423 buildings. In addition, 8% of households in the West Bank live in rented housing units. Results also showed that 11% of

households in the West Bank live in housing units without payment or as in exchange of labour in 2023. 54% of the West Bank households live in a house type of housing units, 45% of the households live in apartments, and less than 1% of the households live in villas, whereas less than 1% of the households live in other types of housing units as an independent room, tent, marginal...etc, in 2023. Results showed that the average housing density (number of persons per room) in the West Bank in 2023 was 1.4 persons per room: 1.4 persons per room in urban, 1.5 persons per room in rural areas, and 1.6 persons per room in refugee camps. Data indicated that 5% of households in the West Bank live in housing units with three persons or more per room, and by type of locality: 4% of households in urban, 7% in rural areas, and 9% in refugee camps in 2023. Data indicated that 42% of the households in the West Bank in 2023 used wastewater networks to dispose their wastewater. Also, 42% of households used septic tank, 15% of households used pit latrine and less than 1% of households used other methods to dispose their wastewater. Data indicated that 99% of the households in the West Bank in 2023 used improved sanitation, which includes piped sewer system, septic tank and pit latrine. Nearly 13% of the households in the West Bank in 2023 live in housing units with an area of 80 m2 or less, while the percentage of households living in housing units with an area of 200 m2 or more

reached 10%, and the largest percentage of households, 41%, were concentrated in housing units with an area of (120-159) m2. At the level of the type of locality, the average housing unit area in urban areas reached 137 m2, in rural areas reached 136 m2, and in camps, it reached 110 m2. **A Year of Genocide: Palestinian civilians killed by Israeli airstrikes on homes in Gaza** Three Palestinian citizens were killed and dozens were injured on Monday in an Israeli bombing that targeted citizens' homes in the Nuseirat and Bureij camps in the central Gaza Strip. Local sources said that three citizens were killed and others were injured after Israeli warplanes bombed several homes in Block 1 in the Bureij camp in the central Gaza Strip. They added that the bombing targeted citizens' homes west of Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip, which resulted in the injury of at least seven citizens, coinciding with the Israeli drones firing on several areas in the camp. The Israeli warplanes bombed a house in the Saftawi area northwest of Gaza City, which resulted in the injury of a number of citizens. The occupation forces continue the brutal aggression against the Gaza Strip, by land, sea and air, since October 7, 2023, which resulted in the killing of 41,870 citizens and the injury of 97,166 others, most of whom are children and women, in an incomplete toll, as thousands of missing persons are still under the rubble. — WAPA

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR



Rallies held on eve of October 7 anniversary

GAZA: Pro-Palestinian were held in several cities globally on Sunday on the eve of the anniversary of the October 7 attacks on southern Israel by the Palestinian group Hamas. Sunday's events followed demonstrations on Saturday in several European cities, including London, Berlin, Paris and Rome. Other events are scheduled throughout the week, including several on Monday. **Huge crowd in Morocco in support of Palestinian cause** Tens of thousands of people joined a rally through Morocco's capital, Rabat, in support of Palestinians and against the country's normalisation of ties with Israel. The protest was organised by the National Action Group for Palestine, a collection of leftist groups and the Islamist Justice and Development Party. Protesters held Palestinian flags and banners as they moved toward the parliament building. They denounced the kingdom's decision in 2020 to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel

as part of the US-led Abraham Accords and called on authorities to sever those ties. Many participants chanted phrases including "Resistance does not die" and "The people want an end to normalisation." The government in the North African country has called for "the immediate, complete and permanent halt to the Israeli war on Gaza." Rabat has not publicly discussed reversing normalisation. Around 3,500 people marched in the Kreuzberg neighbourhood earlier on Sunday in solidarity with Palestinians in Berlin, police said. Demonstrators chanted "Gaza you are not alone" and carried signs that read "Nothing justifies genocide" and "Free Gaza." A police spokeswoman said the start of the protest was "very turbulent," but added that later the situation was "by and large civilized." The demonstration concluded in the nearby district of Neukölln, where police said the situation intensified again to the point it had to disperse the crowd. — DW



LEBANON

UNHCR chief issues urgent aid appeal to stem humanitarian catastrophe

BEIRUT: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi called for greater international support to stem the humanitarian catastrophe engulfing Lebanon. "Two weeks of deadly Israeli airstrikes have killed hundreds and forced over a million people to flee their homes," according to a press release issued by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). "I've witnessed today the tragic toll this war is taking on entire communities," said Grandi, adding "International humanitarian law must be respected and cannot be ignored. Families have been left homeless, stranded in the open air with traumatised children unable to understand what's happening." People should not pay the price for the abysmal failure to find political solutions and end this vicious cycle of violence, Grandi said. With large numbers of people displaced within the country in just two weeks, government-run shelters are overwhelmed, UN-



HCR said in the press release, stressing that the international community must significantly increase funding in order for humanitarians to respond adequately. Lebanon is facing a large-scale Israeli aggression that has targeted numerous towns and villages along the border, as well as critical infrastructure, resulting in thou-

sands of Lebanese civilian casualties. The attacks have also forced over a million people to flee their homes. The UN peacekeeping mission that patrols the Blue Line and offers support to civilians in southern Lebanon, UNIFIL, has expressed deep concern over military activity by the Israeli Defense

Forces close to one of the mission's positions inside Lebanese territory. UNIFIL has said all it's Blue Helmets are remaining in place at observation points and bases along the line of separation in accordance with their UN mandate. "The IDF has been repeatedly informed of this ongoing situation through regular channels. This is an extremely dangerous development," said UNIFIL in a tweet. "It is unacceptable to compromise the safety of UN peacekeepers carrying out their Security Council-mandated tasks." UNIFIL reminded all combatants of their obligations to protect UN personnel and property. In an update on the situation facing Irish military personnel serving with UNIFIL, the Irish Defence Forces said in a post on X that despite the "tough conditions", personnel remain steadfast in their determination and resilience to fulfill the mission. — Agencies



Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tenders: -

Tender Ref.	Description	Last date for Collection of tender Document	Last date for submission of tenders	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
3887/2024/MOH/DGHSBR-1	Supply and replacement of Medical Curtains and Vinyl Floors to Mahdah Health Center at Directorate General of health Services Al-Buraimi Governorate	24/October/2024	Before 10 am on Thursday 14/ November /2024	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board	• SME : 10 R.O • LOCAL : 25 R.O

- Tenders should be submitted on line on: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.
- For any Clarification, you may contact via Telephone:24402200, Email id etenderhd@ita.gov.om

SPORTS

FIRST T20I



Young India blow away Bangladesh

GWALIOR: A young Indian side outgunned an experienced Bangladesh to start off the three-T20I series with an easy seven-wicket win on Sunday. Two debutants in their XI, only three men retained from the side that won the T20 World Cup earlier this year, but India were too good for Bangladesh, who wore the same look of the side from the World Cup.

From the moment they lost Litton Das to a slog in the first over, Bangladesh never really looked like they had the batting for the Gwalior pitch with slightly uneven bounce and an accurate Indian attack. After Arshdeep Singh's early strikes, Mayank Yadav started his international career with a maiden over before the returning Varun Chakravarthy scythed through the middle overs. Chasing a paltry 128, a dominant India got home with 49 balls to spare.

The hosts wanted a big win. Sanju Samson got off to a great start with two boundaries. Ab-

hishek Sharma was less touch and more power as he took Taskin Ahmed down for a six and two fours in the second over but ran himself out.

Samson kept driving down the ground while Suryakumar Yadav manufactured shots behind the wicket. The result was India's best powerplay against Bangladesh in T20Is: 71, which is just the fourth-highest they have conceded in powerplays. His dismissal in the final over of the powerplay didn't slow India down although Samson will be disappointed he fell to a hoick the first ball of off-spin he faced. Both of them scored quick 29s.

Pandya, 39 off 16, continued to have his way with Bangladesh, topping the chase with a no-look ramp over the keeper's head.

Brief scores: India 132/3 in 11.5 overs (Hardik 39, Suryakumar 29, Samson 29; Mehidy 1-7) beat Bangladesh 127 in 19.5 overs (Mehidy 35; Arshdeep 3-14, Varun 3-31). - Agencies

Masood, Shafique make England toil in first Test

The duo shared a second-wicket stand of 253 to set a strong platform for the hosts but late wickets lifted England amid heat



MULTAN: England got a late reward at the end of a gruelling opening day's play in the first Test against Pakistan, who were taken to 328-4 by centuries from Shan Masood (151) and Abdullah Shafique (102).

Pakistan won the toss in oppressive heat and pounced on the chance to bat first on the flattest of pitches.

Gus Atkinson had Saim Ayub caught down the leg side in the fourth over, only for opener Shafique and captain Masood to pile on 253 for the second wicket.

Masood overturned being given out lbw to England debutant Brydon Carse on 16 and Shafique could have been run out by stand-in skipper Ollie Pope on 34.

Both men eventually fell in the space of 17 deliveries, Shafique to Atkinson for 102 and Masood to Jack Leach for 151.

At 263-3, England had hope of taking more from the day, hope that was dimmed when Babar

Azam and Saud Shakeel added 61, then realised when Chris Woakes pinned Babar leg before.

The toss was crucial. For all the talk of a green pitch, the surface was shaved just before play to leave a placid, run-filled batting paradise.

Despite temperatures of 35 degrees, limited preparation time and the absence of injured captain Ben Stokes, England stuck to the task. Their effort could not be faulted and they deserved the prized scalp of Babar.

The tourists can take heart from the likelihood of the pitch remaining

good by the time they come to bat.

Masood and Shafique cash in Masood and his team are under pressure. Pakistan have gone 10 Tests without a home win and Masood has lost all five of his matches in charge, including a 2-0 defeat by Bangladesh in August.

But Masood has been open about his admiration for England's attacking intent and dished out some aggression of his own after Ayub tickled down the leg side from Atkinson's 10th delivery of the day.

Both attacked Bashir and were untroubled by England's bouncers. For Shafique it was a first Test hundred since July 2023; for Masood, a first in four years.

Both men were struggling with cramp when they fell in quick succession. Shafique drove Atkinson to Pope at cover, then Masood patted a return catch to Leach.

Babar looked ominous for his 30, only to play across Woakes, leaving Shakeel on 35 alongside night-watchman Naseem Shah.

Brief scores: Pakistan 1st innings 328-4 (Masood 151, Shafique 102; Atkinson 2-70) vs England. - Agencies

FORMER CAPTAIN

Jayasuriya named Sri Lanka coach after interim success

COLOMBO: Former captain Sanath Jayasuriya was on Monday appointed Sri Lanka's head coach after a successful period in charge on an interim basis.

The 55-year-old former all-rounder took over in July following the departure of ex-England coach Chris Silverwood.

Under Jayasuriya, Sri Lanka

won the third Test against England at The Oval and beat New Zealand in two Tests last month.

He has been appointed on a contract until the end of March 2026 - a period taking in the next T20 World Cup which Sri Lanka will co-host with India in early 2026.

Jayasuriya is already regarded

as one of Sri Lanka's greatest players after a career that included 110 Tests, 445 one-day internationals and 31 T20s.

A destructive opener and canny left-arm spinner, Jayasuriya was part of the Sri Lanka team that won the World Cup in 1996 and reached the final in 2007.

Since retiring he became a

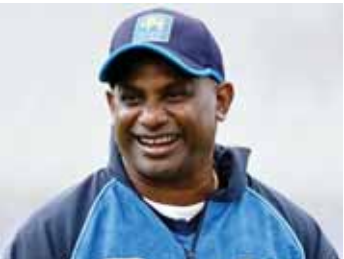
member of Parliament in his home country and acted as the cricket board's chief selector.

In 2019 he was banned for two years after admitting breaches of the International Cricket Council's anti-corruption code.

Prior to the Test series in England, Jayasuriya also oversaw a one-day international series

victory against India.

Although they lost the Test series against England 2-1, victory in the series finale and the 2-0 series win at home against New Zealand means Sri Lanka still have an outside chance of qualifying for next year's World Test Championship (WTC) final. Sri Lanka are currently third in the table. - Agencies



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Saturday Showroom Timing: Muscat, Al Mawelah, Barka, Sohar & Salalah from 9.00 AM to 1.30 PM

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

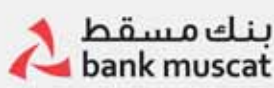
The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by December 2024 reaching \$78.81, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 35 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$77.81. - ONA

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,680.98 points, down by 0% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.16% at 430.97 points. Voltamp Energy, up 9.85%, was the top gainer while A'Saffa Foods, down 3.85%, was the top loser.



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C&N 1/16/2018

Treasury bills worth OMR40mn 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 OMR40 million by a way of allotting treasury bills on Monday.

The value of the allotted treas-



ury bills amounted to OMR24 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 99.660 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 99.660 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.43214 per cent and 4.44726 per cent, respectively.

Whereas, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted

to OMR 4 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 98.838 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 98.835 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.66277% and 4.71762%, respectively.

While, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR 12 million, for a maturity period

of 182 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 97.638 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 97.620 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.73715 per cent and 4.85175%, 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 liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 5.50 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 6.00 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

Oman and France meeting discusses means of promoting economic relations



MUSCAT: Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion held a meeting at the ministry's headquarters yesterday with a French business delegation.

The meeting came within the context of alluring foreign investments and highlighting business environment in Oman.

The meeting discussed means of promoting the economic relations between Oman and France. It also underlined the cooperation and partnership opportunities with the French companies.

During the meeting, Juhaina

Yousef Al Balushi, Investment Specialist at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, gave a visual presentation to the delegation. She touched on investment incentives in the Sultanate of Oman, the advantages and facilities provided by special economic zones and free zones, and the investment opportunities offered in various sectors.

The French delegation will also hold meetings with some ministers and Oman business people to explore the investment and partnership opportunities between the two sides. -ONA

SIGNIFICANCE OF IPOs

OQEP hosts IPO roadshow in Al Wusta



Times News Service

MUSCAT: OQEP has recently conducted an IPO roadshow in the Wilayat of Haima, in collaboration with OCCI, Al Wusta Governorate. This event is part of a series of roadshows held across Oman. The event was attended by Sheikh Ahmed bin Muslim Jadad Al Kathiri, the Governor of Al Wusta, alongside several dignitaries and businessmen.

This initiative is one of the concerted efforts by the company to familiarise stakeholders with the IPO process, which concludes on the ninth and tenth of October for individual institutional investors respectively both within and outside the Sultanate of Oman.

Dr. Anwar bin Sulaiman bin Zaher Al Kharousi, the Chief Commercial Officer at OQEP, has delivered a presentation emphasising the significance of IPOs in advancing economic diversification strategies in Oman. Al Kharousi highlights the role of IPOs in attracting investments to fulfil the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, aimed at enhancing economic diversification policies. Al Kharousi underscores that the OQEP offering represents one of the largest IPOs in Oman and the Gulf region this year, aimed at broadening the ownership base in government assets.

Al Kharousi notes that the offering is tailored to accommodate individual investors by allocating 40% of the shares to this segment,



along with a 10% reduction in share value for Omanis.

In addition, Ali bin Nabil Al Makki, the Director General of Strategy, Planning, and Economics at OQEP, provides insights into the company's contributions to bolstering the national economy through investments in petroleum exploration and production. Al Makki highlights the remarkable growth in production, surging from 18K barrels of oil equivalent per day to 250,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day by the conclusion of 2023. Al Makki emphasises that the company's ROI capital stands as the region's highest at an impressive 32%.

Furthermore, OQEP has successfully covered the IPO for the first category (institutions) at a price of 390 baisas per share, which is the maximum price range. This represents 40% of the

shares available for the IPO.

This strong response underscores the value that OQEP shares hold for institutions within and beyond the Sultanate of Oman. The company has received firm commitments from major investors to subscribe up to OMR156 million in the offering at the maximum price of 390 baisas per share, in accordance with the terms of their respective base investment agreements, allocated primarily to major institutional investors from Oman.

Eng. Mohamed bin Hilal Al Habsi, Vice President of Shared Assets at OQEP, has also delivered a presentation elucidating the company's assets across various concession areas for oil and gas production, highlighting the promising role of these assets in fostering the development and diversification of the company's revenue streams.

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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Voltamp Energy, up 9.85%, was the top gainer while A'Saffa Foods, down 3.85%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,680.98 points, down by 0% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.16% at 430.97 points. Voltamp Energy, up 9.85%, was the top gainer while A'Saffa Foods, down 3.85%, was the top loser. Shares of OQGN were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 620 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO1.64 million, with more than 9.09 million shares changing hands. Out of 42 traded securities, 10 advanced, 9 declined, and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 277K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 275K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 1K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,707.79 points, up 0.14%. Prices of Taageer Finance, Bank Mus-

cat, Al Madina Takaful, Oman Arab Bank were up by 1.89%, 1.59%, 1.30%, 0.68% respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, OMINVEST were down by 1.37%, 1.15% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,597.90 points, up 0.36%. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Gulf International Chemicals, Gulf Mushroom Products were up by 9.85%, 1.41%, 0.90% respectively. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Cables Industry were down by 3.85%, 1.25%, 0.15% respectively. Services Index was down by 0.02% before closing at 1,806.31 points. Prices of Al Jazeera Services, Al Suwadi Power, Sembcorp Salalah were up by 2.09%, 1.32%, 0.95% respectively. Prices of Musandam Power, OQ Gas Networks, Oman Telecom, Renaissance Services were down by 1.89%, 0.69%, 0.61%, 0.51% respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,681.93	4,667.39	4,680.98	4,681.11	-0.14	0.00
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,711.89	7,691.56	7,707.79	7,697.21	10.58	0.14
Industry Index	5,597.90	5,557.50	5,597.90	5,577.73	20.18	0.36
Services Index	1,806.68	1,794.43	1,806.31	1,806.71	-0.40	-0.02
MSX Shariah Index	430.97	430.23	430.97	430.29	0.68	0.16
MSX TR INDEX	6,507.15	6,486.93	6,505.82	6,506.01	-0.19	0.00
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,761.50	8,738.40	8,756.84	8,744.82	12.02	0.14
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,458.65	6,412.04	6,458.65	6,435.37	23.28	0.36
SERVICES TR IDX	2,102.36	2,088.09	2,101.93	2,102.39	-0.47	-0.02
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,069.59	1,069.59	1,069.59	1,069.59	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
9,093,837	1,641,317	620	24,465,887,467	10	9	23	42

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PRE VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	684,702	173,104	20	0.252	0.255	0.252	0.255	0.251	0.004	1.594	0.255	0.254	0.258	0.100	1,914,131,251
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	11,393	871	3	0.077	0.077	0.076	0.077	0.076	0.001	1.316	0.076	0.076	0.077	0.100	55,006,288
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	42,190	3,291	3	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.077	0.001	1.299	0.078	0.078	0.083	0.100	13,650,000
OM0000004735	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	47,983	5,039	5	0.105	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.105	0.001	0.952	0.106	0.106	0.110	0.100	101,184,627
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	20,000	4,800	3	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.240	0.247	0.100	24,000,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	3,000	168	1	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.056	0.057	0.100	19,943,129
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	52,693	3,794	5	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.073	0.100	6,480,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	846,024	116,513	32	0.137	0.138	0.137	0.138	0.138	0.000	0.000	0.138	0.135	0.150	0.100	769,659,985
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	1,380	380	1	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.000	0.000	0.275	0.275	0.282	0.100	179,009,663
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	13,111	984	3	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.100	51,291,445
OM0000006894	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,304,322	393,491	50	0.295	0.295	0.294	0.294	0.294	0.000	0.000	0.294	0.294	0.294	0.100	226,436,800
OM0000003234	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	65,661	25,442	25	0.388	0.394	0.382	0.392	0.394	-0.002	-0.508	0.392	0.392	0.394	0.100	92,672,730
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	184,371	181,293	66	0.980	0.987	0.979	0.984	0.990	-0.006	-0.606	0.985	0.985	0.985	0.100	738,000,000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	3,091,596	444,081	215	0.143	0.144	0.142	0.143	0.144	-0.001	-0.694	0.143	0.144	0.143	0.100	619,278,221
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	47,282	16,359	23	0.349	0.349	0.345	0.345	0.349	-0.004	-1.146	0.345	0.341	0.345	0.100	230,586,072
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	28,520	4,507	9	0.159	0.159	0.158	0.158	0.160	-0.002	-1.250	0.158	0.157	0.170	0.100	34,760,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	33,735	2,442	2	0.074	0.074	0.072	0.072	0.073	-0.001	-1.370	0.072	0.072	0.073	0.100	8,775,000
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	31,000	8,059	4	0.260	0.260	0.259	0.260	0.265	-0.005	-1.887	0.260	0.260	0.290	0.100	18,301,400
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	13,803	5,226	5	0.380	0.380	0.375	0.375	0.390	-0.015	-3.846	0.375	0.375	0.429	0.100	45,000,000
Total	19	6,523,366	1,379,844	475												
Parallel Market																
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	321	115	2	0.357	0.357	0.357	0.357	0.325	0.032	9.846	0.357	0.350	0.357	0.100	29,060,782
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	10,575	2,053	6	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.191	0.004	2.064	0.186	0.191	0.195	0.100	11,934,833
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	30,000	3,240	1	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.106	0.002	1.887	0.108	0.105	0.109	0.100	29,277,774
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	1,500	108	1	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.001	1.408	0.072	0.067	0.076	0.100	1,512,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	20,000	4,500	2	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.223	0.002	0.897	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.100	10,297,305
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	969	143	1	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.147	0.001	0.680	0.148	0.148	0.160	0.100	247,072,680
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	5,000	415	1	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.083	0.085	0.100	7,055,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	83,000	3,652	9	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.044	0.048	0.100	15,514,438
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	190,256	14,270	7	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.074	0.080	0.100	15,913,500
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	392,000	47,257	39	0.121	0.122	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.100	24,358,374
OM0000004246	SMN POWER HOLDING	27,964	8,734	3	0.310	0.323	0.310	0.323	0.323	0.000	0.000	0.323	0.310	0.323	0.100	44,462,999
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,238,600	130,047	16	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.100	234,880,068
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	11,261	1,757	4	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.000	0.000	0.156	0.150	0.150	0.100	8,580,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	209,177	11,924	6	0.057	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.100	84,830,885
OM0000007407	DHOEFAR GENERATING	154,391	11,078	20	0.071	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.071	0.073	0.100	16,001,280
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	6,950	653	1	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.090	0.094	0.100	18,800,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	141,834	9,089	12	0.064	0.065	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.000	0.064	0.064	0.065	0.100	32,552,403
OM0000008569	JABAL REIF	9,800	990	1	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.104	0.100	17,574,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	200	527	1	2.635	2.635	2.635	2.635	2.639	-0.004	-0.152	2.635	2.510	2.635	0.100	236,359,500
Total	19	2,533,798	250,551	133												

SUPPORTING NATIONAL PROJECTS

Bank Nizwa's pivotal role in financing Dhofar Pharmaceutical Industries Factory

MUSCAT: Committed to promoting innovation and enhancing capabilities across industries, Bank Nizwa, the leading and most trusted Islamic bank in Oman, played a pivotal role in financing Dhofar Pharmaceutical Industries Factory. The factory, located in Raysut, Salalah, is the result of the Health Sector Investment Lab, launched by the Ministry of Health in 2022, in collaboration with Nazdars and in alignment with Oman Vision 2040. This move demonstrates the bank's dedication to supporting national projects that are vital to driving sustainable progress. Commenting on the initiative, Khalid Al Kayed, Chief Executive Officer at Bank Nizwa said, "In an increasingly complex world, reliable and accessible healthcare solutions are fundamental to national resilience and stability. The establishment of Dhofar Pharmaceutical Industries Factory marks a significant milestone in the



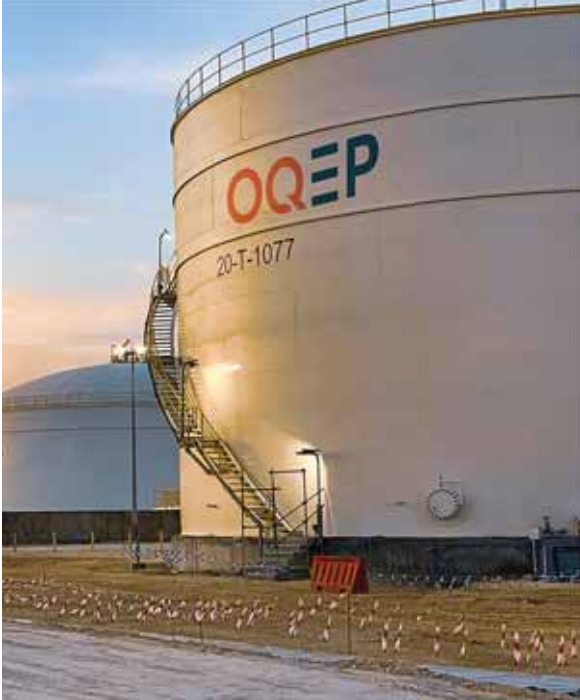
Sultanate's journey toward self-reliance in healthcare and sets a precedent for future investments." He added, "At Bank Nizwa, we take pride in joining hands with organisations that share our vision for progress and sustainability. Our proactive role in financing

such initiatives reaffirms our commitment to fostering a diversified economy that meets the evolving needs of the market. As the most trusted Islamic bank, our strategic partnerships in healthcare reflect both our responsibility to enhance societal well-being and our dedica-

tion to economic growth." Built over an expansive 22,000-square-metre area, the factory is equipped with advanced technologies and adheres to the highest international standards. The project is set to play a critical role in meeting both local and regional demand for pharmaceutical solutions, bolstering Oman's health security and its goal of reducing reliance on imports. The factory represents a significant advancement in domestic pharmaceutical production capabilities, helping to stabilise local prices and reduce reliance on imported medications. By localising the manufacturing of critical health solutions, this initiative strengthens national health security while promoting economic self-sufficiency. Moreover, its large-scale production capacity will meet both local and regional demand, solidifying the nation's position as a vital contributor to the broader healthcare sector.

OQEP IPO UPDATE

OQ Exploration and Production announces that the total demand received exceeds total deal size (inc. retail, anchor and institutional tranche) at top of the range.



EXPANDS PROCUREMENT BASE

India well-prepared to meet its growing energy demands

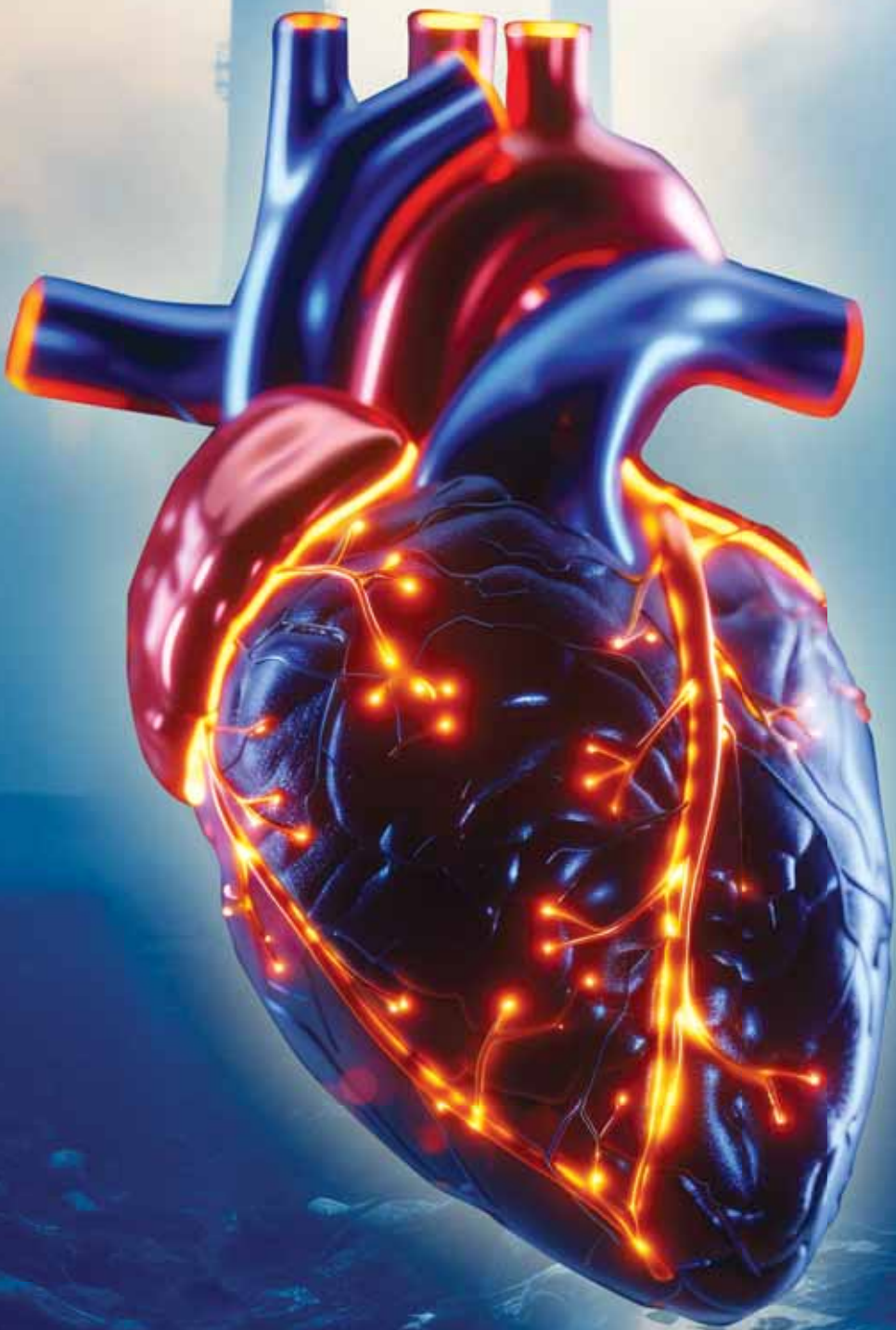
NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, has confidently asserted that the country is well-prepared to meet its growing energy demands, with a diverse range of oil sources. Speaking on the availability of oil in the global market, Puri emphasised that India has expanded its procurement base, moving from 27 suppliers to 39. "We are now buying from 39 sources, earlier we were buying from 27. Enough oil available and we have enough choices to exercise," Puri said, highlighting India's strategic positioning in the global oil supply chain. Addressing concerns about potential disruptions in the oil market, the minister downplayed any immediate risks. He stated that the global supply of oil currently outpaces consumption, ensuring a stable market. Puri said, "Our energy consumption has been steadily growing. Today there is more oil available in the world, then there is consumption. If some parties hold back hold back on availability, there are new suppliers in the market also. In the short medium term, I don't see any shortage of oil in the world."

Puri's comments come at a time when global oil markets are under scrutiny, with various geopolitical and economic factors impacting supply chains. However, India's proactive approach to diversifying its oil sources has placed the country in a secure position, ensuring energy security for its



LIFESTYLE

Metal exposure linked to higher heart disease risk: Study



The decade-long study, involving over 6,000 participants, found that elevated levels of metals such as cadmium, tungsten, and uranium in urine were linked to increased arterial plaque, a precursor to atherosclerosis.

A study from Columbia University reveals that environmental metal exposure significantly contributes to coronary artery calcium (CAC) buildup, comparable to traditional risk factors like smoking and diabetes. The decade-long study, involving over 6,000 participants, found that elevated levels of metals such as cadmium, tungsten, and uranium in urine were linked to increased arterial plaque, a precursor to athero-

sclerosis. This research suggests new strategies for preventing and treating cardiovascular disease by addressing metal exposure. The findings highlight the urgent need for regulatory actions to reduce environmental pollutants, particularly from industries like agriculture, mining, and nuclear energy production, which contribute to widespread metal contamination. Even low levels of exposure pose significant risks to car-

diovascular health. “Pollution is the greatest environmental risk to cardiovascular health,” said Dr. Katlyn E. McGraw, the study’s lead author. Published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, the research calls for heightened awareness and stricter regulations to limit metal exposure and protect public health. These findings underscore the critical need for pollution control in combating cardiovascular disease. -oma

SPORTS

Lewandowski slams hat-trick in Barca's victory over Alaves

The Polish striker's 32-minute hat-trick was the fourth quickest by a Barcelona player in La Liga

BARCELONA: Robert Lewandowski scored a first-half hat-trick as Barcelona re-established their three-point advantage at the top of La Liga with a comfortable 3-0 win at Alaves on Sunday.

Real Madrid's home victory over Villarreal on Saturday evening had temporarily moved them level with Hansi Flick's side.

However, the visitors - who suffered a shock defeat by Osasuna last weekend - always looked in control after Lewandowski nodded them in front early on from Raphinha's curling delivery.

The 36-year-old's second, a close-range finish, came after more



good work from the Brazilian.

And his and Barca's third came as he reversed a shot past home goalkeeper Antonio Sivera from Eric Garcia's pass.

The Poland forward has now scored 12 goals in 11 games in all competitions for Barca, who are averaging over three goals a game in the Spanish top flight this term.

"I had some good passes and they made it easier for me to score," Lewandowski said on DAZN.

"We played well from the first minute and we wanted to attack



and score goals. We were more in control in the second half. We have a very good group. I think we can play better but we have improved all the things we lacked."

The hosts thought they had pulled a goal back on the stroke of half-time but Toni Martinez's goal was ruled out for an offside in the build-up. - Agencies

MANAGER TEN HAS IN FOCUS

Man Utd earn battling draw at Aston Villa



LONDON: Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag will hope a battling 0-0 draw at Aston Villa on Sunday will relieve the fierce scrutiny of his position.

The club's co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe was in attendance at Villa Park to see United at least show some of the resilience that was missing in the collapse at home to Tottenham and the defensive solidity lacking in Porto in the Europa League.

Ten Hag turned to the veteran duo of Harry Maguire and Jonny Evans to add some steel, although he lost the England defender to injury right on half-time.

Marcus Rashford twice tested Villa keeper Emi Martinez while United captain Bruno Fernandes came closest with a second half free-kick that bounced back off the bar at the Holte End. Substitute Antony also forced Martinez into an acrobatic save from long range.

Chelsea held

Elsewhere, at Stamford Bridge, Chelsea drew with Nottingham Forest 1-1. Chris Wood and Noni Madueke scored as Chelsea and Nottingham Forest played out a tactical and feisty draw.

Forest went ahead when 32-year-old striker Wood slid in a finish past Robert Sanchez after a good set-piece routine involving James Ward-Prowse and Nikola Milenkovic in the 49th minute.

But Chelsea responded quickly as Madueke equalised eight minutes later after cutting in on his left foot and shooting, his fourth such effort having had the beating of left-back Alex Moreno.

Referee Chris Kavanagh sent off Forest's Ward-Prowse for deliberately handling the ball to stop a Nicolas Jackson counter-attack in the second half, giving him a second yellow card, having booked him earlier on for a more conventional tactical foul on star man Cole Palmer.

Then, Madueke also appeared to go off injured after a melee sparked by Neco Williams, who pushed defender Marc Cucurella into Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca.

The Blues' five-game winning run has ended but they remain unbeaten in the league since the opening match of the season, while Forest are undefeated on the road in six matches, their longest such run since 1995. - Agencies

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Brighton rally to stun Tottenham

LONDON: Brighton produced a superb fightback to come from two goals down and beat Tottenham Hotspur 3-2 in a Premier League thriller on the south coast on Sunday.

Spurs looked to be heading to a sixth successive victory in all competitions as they deservedly led 2-0 after 37 minutes.

Brennan Johnson opened the scoring with his sixth goal in six games when he timed his run perfectly to run onto Dominic Solanke's through ball before slotting past Bart Verbruggen.

The home goalkeeper should have done better with a curled shot from James Maddison as he got two hands to the low strike, but could not keep the ball out as Spurs doubled their lead.

But Brighton were a side transformed after the break.

They pulled one back early in the second half, when Destiny Udogie was unable to clear the ball from Kaoru Mitoma's cross and Yankuba Minteh capitalised to grab his first goal for the Seagulls following his £30m move from Newcastle.



The impressive Mitoma was again involved as the hosts equalised in the 58th minute, passing to Georginio Rutter, who twisted to create space away from Micky van de Ven and then shoot low past Guglielmo Vicario.

Rutter then did excellently to

not give up, sliding in near the byeline to get a cross in, which Danny Welbeck converted with a downward header to score what proved to be the winner.

Brighton fought back to claim a memorable win, the first time they had done so from two goals behind

at half-time since December 2015 when they beat 10-man Charlton 3-2 in the Championship.

Tottenham Hotspur, meanwhile, now have lost 10 times in the Premier League when they have been leading by two or more goals. - Agencies

SPURS MANAGER

Postecoglou unhappy with 'worst' defeat

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur manager Ange Postecoglou called his side's collapse against Brighton the Premier League "probably the worst defeat since I've been here".

"It was disappointing and I'm absolutely gutted with that," said Postecoglou.

"It's an unacceptable second half - we were nowhere near where we should be. Maybe we got carried away with how we were going.

"We kind of accepted our fate and it's hard to understand as we've not done that while I've been here. We usually fight for everything, and when you don't you pay a price."

Postecoglou criticised his side's mentality and spirit, adding: "Maybe things were travelling on too smoothly. Football and



life will trip you up if you get too far ahead of yourself and that's what it looked like in the second half.

"It's a terrible loss for us, as bad as it gets, and there's only one

way to fix it and that's my responsibility. We lost all our duels, we weren't competitive and if you're not competitive, irrespective of what you do tactically, it is not going to work."

Brighton moved above Spurs into sixth, and manager Fabian Hurszler said: "My team deserved to win. They worked hard and focused on the things they could control.

"Tottenham always have a great start. They play with intensity and we were not ready for that. We also created chances but defensively we have to improve.

We focused on the positive things - the second important thing was to win the duels to build self-confidence. The players worked hard to gain flow and they used it.

"In general I learned nothing new - this is always possible in football. When you are 2-0 down it is not easy, but it is important to stay positive and I'm really happy for the players." - Agencies

FATHER-SON DUO

LeBron and Bronny James make NBA history for Lakers

LOS ANGELES: LeBron James and Bronny James made NBA history by becoming the first father-son duo to play together on the same team during the Los Angeles Lakers' pre-season game against the Phoenix Suns.

Bronny, on his 20th birthday, entered the court during the second quarter in a 118-114 defeat by the Suns.

Never before had a father and son played in an NBA game of any type - including pre-season - at the

same time. "Wow that was surreal," LeBron wrote on X following the match.

Speaking to reporters, he added: "We came out of a timeout and we kind of stood next to each other. I kind of looked at him. "It was like being in The Matrix or something. It just didn't feel real. But it was great to have those moments."

LeBron scored 19 points on the night, with four assists and five rebounds. Bronny went scoreless during his 13-minute run, finish-

ing with two rebounds and four turnovers.

Bronny joined the Lakers as a second-round draft pick from the University of Southern California in June. LeBron, 39, is the NBA's all-time record point-scorer and a four-time NBA winner.

The veteran is entering his 22nd season in the NBA.

He signed a new two-year deal with the Lakers following Bronny's arrival at the franchise.

Bronny said he found out that

he was going to play with his father earlier in the day. He added that while he was "psyched," it also felt like a "normal game with my teammate."

"Just trying to live in the moment and do my job and find my role," he added.

The 2024-25 NBA season begins on October 22, with the Lakers in action against the Minnesota Timberwolves after champions the Boston Celtics face the New York Knicks. - Agencies



IN PICTURES



Highlight of 2024 Wuhan Open tennis tournament
Chinese tennis player Zheng Qinwen (centre) attends the opening ceremony of the 2024 Wuhan Open tennis tournament in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province. — Xinhua



Highlight of Moscow Fashion Week
A model presents a creation during the Moscow Fashion Week in Moscow, Russia. — Xinhua



Dogs of Sri Lankan police department's canine force perform at park
Dogs of Sri Lankan police department's canine force perform at a park in Colombo, Sri Lanka. — Xinhua



Autumn scenery of China's Inner Mongolia
An aerial drone picture shows the autumn scenery in Zhuozi County of Ulanqab, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. — Xinhua

2024 Thai Festival held in Vancouver
A Thai dancer interacts with a child during the 2024 Thai Festival at the Vancouver Art Gallery plaza in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. — Xinhua



People run with pet dogs in charity running event in St. Petersburg
Children run with their pet dogs in a charity running event in St. Petersburg, Russia. — Xinhua



Kareena Kapoor's silver saree steals attention at 'Singham Again' launch
Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan never misses chance to grab the attention of fans with her fashion statement. Her corset silver saree made heads turn at the trailer launch of her upcoming movie 'Singham Again'. — ANI

ROUND-UP

Enjoy perfect family fun with benefits on Ford Expedition

Under the hood, the Ford Expedition is equipped with a robust 3.5-litre EcoBoost engine, delivering up to 380 horsepower and 637Nm of torque, all while offering best-in-class fuel efficiency

MUSCAT: Discover unmatched power, space and benefits of the Ford Expedition! For a limited time, drive away with an incredible offer that includes 5



years/100,000 km of free service, a 5-year/100,000 km manufacturer's warranty, 5 years/100,000 km of roadside assistance and 1 year of free registration. This fantastic deal is valid only until November 7. Under the hood, the Ford Expedition is equipped with a robust 3.5-litre EcoBoost engine, delivering up to 380 horsepower and 637Nm of torque, all while offering best-in-class fuel efficiency. Paired with a 10-speed automatic transmission, this full-size SUV guarantees smooth, powerful drives on highways or off-road adventures. Ford has thoughtfully built the Expedition with a focus on safety

and convenience. Enjoy peace of mind with features like Collision Avoidance Detection, which helps prevent accidents and the Blind Spot Information System to keep an extra eye on the road. The Control Trac with Electronic Limited Slip Differential ensures superior handling, especially on rugged terrain. Inside, the Expedition is packed with modern technology. Stay connected with SYNC® 4, featuring a 12-inch LCD touchscreen and keep your devices charged with multiple USB ports, a 220-volt power outlet and wireless charging. Whether you are heading out with family or on an adventure, the Tri-zone Elec-

tronic Temperature Control ensures comfort for everyone, while the Panoramic Vista Roof provides breath-taking views. Need to tow? The Ford Expedition leads its class with exceptional towing capabilities and the Trailer Tow Class IV system makes hauling easy. Plus, loading and unloading are effortless with the available power liftgate. Perfect for families, the spacious Expedition seats up to 8 passengers comfortably, with plenty of room for luggage. The unique sliding second-row seat offers easy access to the third row, even without removing a child safety seat, while third-row passengers will enjoy ample legroom and reclining seats for long journeys. Take advantage of this limited-time offer and experience the unmatched versatility of the Ford Expedition—your perfect companion for any journey! Those interested in experiencing the Ford Expedition can visit their nearest Ford showroom. In Oman, Ford vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.

TASTE OF THAILAND

Thai Embassy brings authentic cuisine to MHA

MUSCAT: The Royal Thai Embassy in Oman, in collaboration with Muscat Hospitality Academy (MHA), announced the success of the Thai Culinary Workshop on September 29 and 30. This unique workshop was led by Executive Chef Shakriya Kanasasanat, a chef with over 18 years of experience in Thai and international cuisine. Held at MHA's state-of-the-art campus, the workshop featured morning and afternoon sessions on both days, offering participants an opportunity to immerse themselves in the art of authentic Thai cooking. Chef Shakriya guided attendees through the preparation of traditional dishes such as Laab Gai, Thai Green Curry, Pad Kaprao, and Tom Yum Kung Soup. Participants gained valuable insights into the unique ingredients and techniques that define Thai cuisine.



Ek-att Thitaram, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. of the Royal Thai Embassy, said in his welcome remarks that, "The workshop is part of the Royal Thai Embassy's efforts to promote Thailand as a global hub for food and agriculture and also to encourage young students of MHA to learn about

Thai dishes and ingredients." Participants included members of the diplomatic corps, MHA students, and the general public, offering a diverse learning environment. Through this collaboration, MHA continues to enhance its role as a leading institution providing premier Swiss-quality education in

the hospitality sector, in partnership with EHL Group, the world's leader in hospitality education. Aameena Al Zadjali, Founder & Chairperson of MHA, commented on the workshop, saying, "We are excited to collaborate with the Royal Thai Embassy for this culinary workshop. It offers a unique opportunity for our students and participants to learn authentic Thai cooking techniques from a seasoned expert like Chef Shakriya. This partnership is a reflection of MHA's commitment to bringing global culinary excellence to Oman and equipping our students with world-class skills." Chef Shakriya Kanasasanat, a graduate of Dhurakij Pundit University in Bangkok, brings with her a wealth of experience in hotel management, culinary arts, and restaurant operations.

AT AL MOUJ GOLF COURSE

Europcar Oman & Bahrain gears up for 10th edition of Europcar Open

MUSCAT: After the remarkable success of the past nine editions, Al Mouj Golf course is set to once again host the highly anticipated 10th Edition of the Europcar Open on Friday, December 6th, 2024. This premier corporate golf tournament continues to grow in stature, promising another exciting competition for senior corporate decision makers from Oman, Dubai and Bahrain. As in previous years, the tournament will feature golfers, competing across categories including Men's Division A, Men's Division B, Ladies and the Inter-Club Challenge. To mark this milestone, Europcar Oman & Bahrain recently hosted an exclusive luncheon at its new headquarters, welcoming VIPs, Oman Golf Association board members, golf club general managers, sponsors and partners. Esteemed guests included Raul Hernandez, Ambassador of the



Philippines; Leslie Ordeman, Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy and Syed Noureddin, Chargé d'Affaires of the Singapore Embassy. Oman Golf Association was represented by board members Ahmed Jahdhami, Nikhil Sampat & Richard Michelmores - Oman National Team Coach & Director of Golf Development and former Chairman - Mundhir Al Barwani. The clubs were represented by Scott Mc Caw - GM at Al Mouj Golf, Ahmed Al Farsi - GM at Ghala Golf Club, Salim Al Harthy - GM at Ras Al Hamra & Freddie Rextrew - General Manager at La Vie Golf Club.

Other important partners included CEO of Oman American Business Council (OABC) - Rebecca Olson, Maggie Jeans - Founder of British Business Forum (BBF) & Charm Majolica - Director of Diplomatic Club. Peugeot and Aston Martin headline this year as title sponsors, joined by Mistal Watches and Liva Insurance. Other prestigious sponsors include St Regis, W Hotel, Heritage Aarah, Husaak, Travelex, WH Smith, Mumtaz Mahal, Woodlands & media partner Times of Oman among others, showcasing the growing support for the event. Nitin Sapre, CEO of Europcar Oman & Bahrain, commented, "We are thrilled to celebrate this incredible milestone. Over the years, the Europcar Open has grown into an iconic event that blends the worlds of business and pleasure, offering a unique platform for networking."

OMAN BANKS ASSOCIATION

Football tournament for banks

MUSCAT: The Oman Banks Association concluded the 2024 Banks Football Championship under the auspices of Taher bin Salem Al-Amri, the CEO of the Central Bank of Oman, held at the Al-Amal Club in Ghala. The competition saw the winning of the Bank Muscat team, which secured first place, while the National Bank of Oman took second place, and Bank Nizwa claimed third place. Al-Amri praised the importance of such events in fostering collaboration and acquaintance among banks, supporting the development efforts within the banking sector. The championship contributes to creating a friendly competitive environment that enhances social bonds among bank employees and highlights the significance of physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle. The championship provided a unique opportunity for bank employees to interact outside of



the workplace, helping to build strong professional relationships and facilitating the exchange of experiences. Such activities emphasize the vital role of sports in strengthening relationships among individuals and enhancing team spirit, which positively impacts institutional performance. It is noteworthy that the championship kicked off on September 2, featuring exciting competitions and significant rivalry among ten banks, in addition to the Central

Bank of Oman. **Bank Muscat triumphs** In the knockout stages, Bank Muscat defeated Sohar International Bank 1-0 in the quarter-finals, and advanced to the finals after a 3-1 penalty shootout win against Bank Nizwa in the semi-finals. In the final, they delivered an outstanding performance, clinching the title with a 3-0 victory over the National Bank of Oman.

DIGITAL SERVICES



Bank Muscat hosts seminar for customers in Buraimi governorate

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing efforts to familiarize customers with the products and services available across its digital platforms, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, recently hosted a seminar for customers in the Buraimi Governorate. The seminar, presented by Salim bin Mohammed Al Badi, a technical engineer and an entrepreneur, aimed to inform attendees about the various services and banking products accessible through Internet Banking and Mobile Banking. Bank Muscat remains committed to continually enhance its digital infrastructure and staying updated with the latest technological advancements both locally and globally. Raya bint Habib Al Shukaili, Senior Regional Manager of Bank Muscat branches in Al Batinah, Al Dhahira, and Al Buraimi, delivered a keynote speech during the seminar, highlighting the bank's role in meeting the needs of both individual and micro and small business owners. She emphasized the bank's use of cutting-edge technology across different platforms to deliver top-notch services, stating: "We are proud that Bank Muscat is the preferred banking partner for customers across the Sultanate, and we remain grateful for the ongoing trust in our products and services."



The session displayed the various services provided to simplify business operations through Internet Banking, enabling business owners to manage company accounts and cards, handle employee payroll transactions, view loan repayments, transfer funds locally and internationally, request VAT statements, order checkbooks, pay bills, settle supplier dues and taxes, and open fixed deposit accounts. The seminar is part of a broader series of events the bank plans to conduct, focusing on introducing customers to its growing suite of digital banking services. These services have expanded in response to the increasing demand for digital banking services. These features include account management, requests, transfers, card management, car insurance renewal, checkbook requests, utility bill payments, and much more. To further strengthen its digital services, Bank Muscat has launched several new payment options for users of smart devices. These additions enhance the digital payment landscape, providing customers with convenient and secure alternatives to carrying physical cards while shopping. The Bank's payment solutions also cover point-of-sale transactions, online payments, and the acceptance of various debit, credit and prepaid cards.



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to see the sunrise in
Oman?

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was the only
team to defeat
Argentina in the
2022 FIFA World
Cup?

Can you match wits
with the participants?



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