



HIS MAJESTY OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO THE PRESIDENT OF UAE

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on the death of Sheikh Tahnoon bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, Representative of the Ruler in Al Ain Region. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments and profound sympathy to Sheikh Mohammed, the deceased's family and the UAE people. His Majesty prayed for the Almighty Allah to rest his soul in peace in Paradise and grant his family fortitude. - **ONA**



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SAYYID SHIHAB RECEIVES AMBASSADOR OF IRAN

HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, received in his office at Al Murtafaa Garrison yesterday Mousa Farhang, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Sultanate of Oman. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged cordial conversations on a set of matters of mutual interest. They also reviewed bilateral relations between Oman and Iran. - **ONA**

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Tender Board awards contracts worth over OMR87.7 million

MUSCAT: The Tender Board on Wednesday awarded a number of tenders and additional works for the implementation of development projects worth OMR87,731,571.

The business tasks were awarded during the Tender Board's second meeting of the year, headed by Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, Chairman of the board.

Key works that were endorsed included a tender for the design and construction of 12 school buildings in various governorates of Oman (OMR20,950,094), a framework contract to appoint a law firm to represent the Ministry of Transport, Commu-



nica-tions and Information Technology (OMR9,750,000), a project to construct Al Mughsayl Road and Bridge in Dhofar Governorate (OMR9,110,540), a contract for complementary works of the Dhofar Municipality Building (OMR7,030,445) and a project to build and maintain housing

units in the Wilayat of Shaleem W'al-Halaniyat Islands in Dhofar (OMR4,451,633). The works also included consultancy services and designs for an integrated sports city project (OMR4,231,925) and the supply of heart surgery equipment for Ministry of Health facilities (OMR4,226,987). - **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN National Museum displays manuscript

1 The National Museum on Wednesday inaugurated the manuscript 'Anis al-Hujja'. On loan from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya in Mumbai, India, this manuscript serves as an illustrated guide to pilgrimage to Mecca and related rituals. **>A2**

OMAN Higher Education Institutions Forum

2 Activities of the Future of Higher Education Institutions Forum kicked off at the headquarters of the Royal Academy for Management. The two-day forum aims to groom and empower national competencies and comes in line with Oman's future vision. **>A4**

OMAN Cardiac centre implants pacemaker

3 The National Centre for Cardiac Medicine and Surgery at the Royal Hospital succeeded in implanting a pacemaker in the left heart nerve of three patients. The surgery was the first-of-its-kind in the Sultanate of Oman. **>A5**

OMAN BRACES FOR HEAVY RAINS

NCEM has activated national centre, subcommittees, and other sectors to limit the impact of adverse weather conditions in the country

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Emergency services in Oman have asked people to exercise caution as heavy rains are expected to lash the Sultanate of Oman on Thursday.

At least 19 people were killed in flash floods triggered by heavy rains in North Al Sharqiyah and Adam in the second week of April 2024.

Analysis made by the National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Centre at the Civil Aviation Authority shows that the Sultanate of Oman will be affected by a trough of low pressure starting from Thursday until Saturday.

Officials also said that the peak of the unstable weather



condition will begin on Thursday afternoon.

The precipitation is likely to pervade the governorates of Al Buraimi, Al Dhahirah, South Al Batinah, Al Dakhiliyah, Muscat and North Al Sharqiyah, with rainfall ranging between 20mm and 80mm.

Nasser Said Al Ismaili, Director of the Department of Forecasts and Early Warning System at the Civil Aviation Authority, said that the rest of Oman's northern governorates will also be moderately impacted by the weather condition.

In the wake of this adverse weather system, the National

Committee for Emergency Management (NCEM) has decided to activate national centres, subcommittees and other sectors tasked with addressing adverse weather conditions that are expected to prevail over the governorates of Muscat, Dhofar, Al Dakhiliyah, North Al Sharqiyah, South Al Batinah and Al Dhahirah.

The authorities concerned will step up proactive action to limit the impacts of the weather condition and to deal with reports of potential damage.

Classes Suspended

Meanwhile the Ministry of Education has announced the acti-

vation of distance learning systems in all public, private, and foreign schools across Oman, with the exception of schools in the Al Wusta Governorate, on Thursday, May 2.

As per the ministry announcement, normal classes will resume on Sunday, May 5, 2024.

The Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation has granted private higher education institutions and vocational colleges the authority to adapt their decisions based on prevailing circumstances.

This decision emphasises the importance of prioritising public safety amid changing weather

conditions.

The Ministry has decided to suspend work and rehabilitation programmes in all government and private rehabilitation centres and nurseries in all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman on Thursday following the adverse weather situation in Oman.

Take precaution

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) advises all to take precautions during rainfall that will cause flash floods.

It urges the public to check visibility level and sea state before sailing and follow the weather bulletins issued.

STUDY

AI to help keep track of students' progress

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a recent study published in Smart Learning Environments (SLE), researchers at Al Buraimi University College (BUC) have found an ingenious way to use artificial intelligence (AI) to help students excel in their studies.

Led by principal investigator Dr. Ijaz Muhammad Khan, an IT Instructor at BUC, the research project titled "An artificial intelligence approach to monitor student performance and devise preventive measures" looked into the application of AI in the education sector.

The study explored how AI could lend a hand in keeping track



Dr. Ijaz Muhammad Khan, an IT Instructor at BUC.

of students' progress and offering timely support when needed.

Dr. Khan explained that for

teachers, keeping tabs on every student's academic journey could be a challenge, but with AI, it could become more manageable.

Drawing on a rich dataset from Al Buraimi University College, the study employed various AI machine learning classifiers to analyse student performance patterns and identify key predictive features for early intervention.

Remarkably, the specific type of AI programme called a 'Decision Trees' emerged as the most effective model, surpassing other algorithms like k-Nearest Neighbours, Artificial Neural Networks, and Naive Bayes in accuracy and efficiency. Decision Trees excelled at pinpointing which students might benefit

most from additional support.

According to Dr. Khan, indicators like consistent class attendance, strong grades, and performance on major exams were key factors in predicting when a student might be in need of help. Armed with this knowledge, teachers can intervene early to provide the necessary support before students fall behind.

Dr. Khan and his team envision that by leveraging AI in this capacity, educators can enhance their ability to nurture student success.

They believe that integrating AI technology into education holds the promise of improving learning outcomes and fostering a more supportive learning environment for all students. **>A5**

GAZA DEATH TOLL

as of May 1, 2024



PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:09pm
Asr.....	3:34pm
Maghrib.....	6:40pm
Isha.....	7:56pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:11am

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National Museum displays ‘Anis al-Hujjaj’ manuscript from India

The manuscript was written by Safi bin Vali Qazvin after his pilgrimage journey in 1676 CE to Mecca. The manuscript will be displayed for four months in the ‘Oman and the World Gallery’ at the National Museum



Anis-al-Hujjaj manuscript on loan to the National Museum of Oman is a testimony to the excellent co-operation between the Museums and institutions of art and heritage of both countries.

MUSCAT: The National Museum on Wednesday inaugurated the manuscript ‘Anis al-Hujjaj’. On loan from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya in Mumbai, India, this manuscript serves as an illustrated guide to pilgrimage to Mecca and related rituals. The manuscript was written by Safi bin Vali Qazvin after his pilgrimage journey in 1676 CE to Mecca. The manuscript will be displayed for four months in the ‘Oman and the World Gallery’ at the National Museum. “Anis al-Hajj” or “Anis al-Hujjaj” features 28 detailed illustrations depicting various ports in the Mughal Indian Sultanate and scenes from the pilgrimage. The author comprehensively documented the journey, beginning with the departure of the Indian pilgrim caravan from the port of Surat, traversing the Arabian



Sea, docking at various ports such as Mukha and Jeddah, and finally reaching Mecca. Jamal Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary-General of the National Museum, said in his speech during the ceremony: “The inauguration

of the manuscript ‘Anis al-Hujjaj’ enhances awareness of Oman’s history and its strategic position as a hub of cultural and commercial exchange throughout the ages. The manuscript sheds light on an important historical period, the era



of the Mughal Indian Sultanate, and contains (28) detailed illustrations, including those depicting the pilgrim fleet in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Oman. These illustrations document the types of wooden boats of that time, as well

as the attire and looks of the travellers, among other details.” In his turn, Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman said: “India and Oman have deep rooted bilateral and historical relations. The arrival of

Meanwhile, Dr. Buddha Rashmi Mani, the Director-General of the National Museum in New Delhi said that the Pilgrim’s Companion or Anis-ul-Hujjaj, the manuscript that has travelled from India on display, is a manuscript par excellence belonging to the medieval, Mughal period in India. Anis-ul-Hujjaj brings to light various facets of the period including the glory of holy pilgrim sites of Hajj and Umrah, requisite and preparations for pilgrimage, recommendations on sea routes that connect India to the Gulf, specifications of sea vessels/ships, medicinal details, and above all subjects like charity and welfare of poor people along with moral guidance to the pilgrims, among many other aspects. It is worth noting that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, formerly known as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, is one of the premier art and history museums in India. It was established in 1909. Situated on the southern tip of Mumbai on the ‘Crescent Site’, the Museum building is a fine example of the Indo-Saracenic style of architecture. -ONA

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REGIONAL CONSULTATION

UNESCO meeting discusses strategies and plans to meet Arab aspirations



MEETING: The meeting has been organised by the Ministry of Education, represented by Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, in cooperation with the Headquarter Secretariat of the United Nations for Education, Science and Culture. -ONA



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is currently hosting the regional consultation meeting for the secretaries of the Arab National Commissions for UNESCO. The two-day meeting is organised by the Ministry of Education, represented by Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, in cooperation with the Headquarter Secretariat of the United Nations for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO). The meeting aims to discuss the contribution of the Arab countries to developing the organisation’s financial budget document and the programme for the period



2026-2029, and to involve the Arab countries in devising the organisation’s future strategies and plans in a bid to ensure that the organisation’s plans reflect the aspirations of the Arab countries and are consistent with their development plans. The meeting is attended by An-

thony Ohmeng Boama, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Africa and External Relations, the Secretaries of the Arab National Committees and representatives of UNESCO field offices in the Arab region, in addition to representatives of national bodies related to the tasks and competencies of the secretariat of Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science. A number of officials from the UNESCO headquarters office and its field offices in the Arab countries are also participating in the meeting via video communication technology. It is worth noting that Oman

National Commission for Education, Culture and Science held a consultative meeting earlier this week with representatives of national bodies related to the tasks and competencies of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to discuss the preparation for the regional consultation meeting of the secretaries of the Arab National Committees for UNESCO. The meeting aimed to come up with a joint national vision to benefit from UNESCO’s programmes in achieving progress towards the sustainable development goals and list them on the agenda of the current meeting. -ONA

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MEETING

NCSI and IMF officials review financial indicators



MUSCAT: Dr. Khalifa Abdullah Al Barwani, CEO of the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) yesterday received a delegation of experts from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The meeting came within the framework of preparation for the 2024 Article IV consultations. The consultations are hosted by the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) and the Ministry of Finance, till 8 May 2024. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed statistics and information which reflect economic and financial developments, as well as inflation indicators. They also discussed several other matters related to the tasks and specialisations of the NCSI.

-ONA

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GROWTH THROUGH TOURISM

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

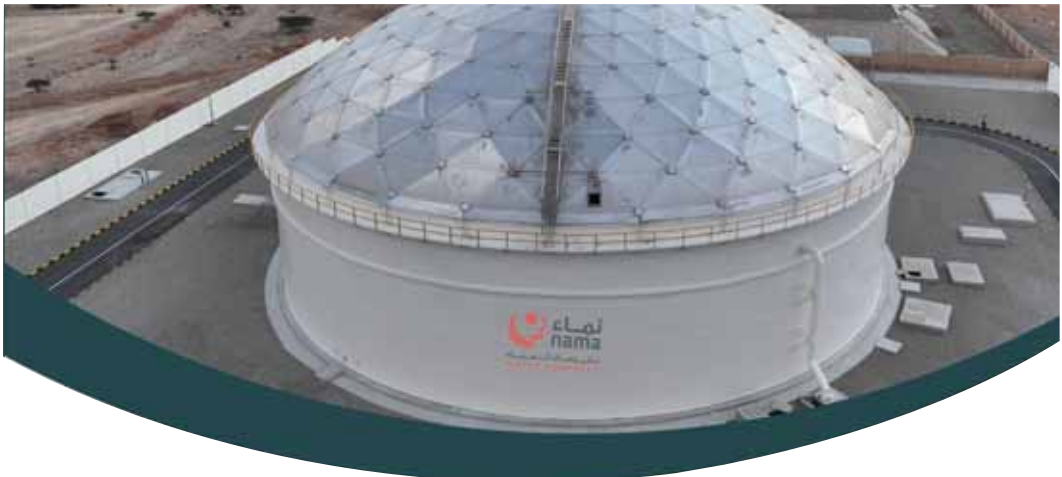
Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN Group) would like to invite competent and experienced companies to participate in the following Tender:

Tender No.	11/2024
Tender Title	The Management & Marketing of OMRAN Billboard & Hoarding Spaces at Madinat Al Irfan
Tender Submission Closing Date	16 May 2024
Tender Process Details	Please visit: www.omran.om/tenders/



omran.om/tenders/

Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN Group)
Tel: +968 24 39 11 11
info@omran.om
@omranguroupom



TENDER NOTICE

Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company (NAMA WATER SERVICES) hereby announces the following Tenders: -

Tender No.	Tender No.	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Sale Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
T/2594959-2/2024 Re-Float	Call off Contract for Supply & Delivery of Diesel to O & M Assets of Nama Water Services for 5 years	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 1500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	14/05/2024	23/05/2024
T/2484928-2/2024 Re-Float	Supply, Installation, and commissioning of Emergency Submersible Pumping System at Main Pumping Stations# 2&3 Seeb Area & CPS-Bousher Area	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 100/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	16/05/2024	13/06/2024
T/2629960/2024	Upgrading of Al Ghubrah Pump Station and Construction of Transmission Pipelines	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board in Excellent Grade and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 2500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	16/05/2024	01/07/2024

The tender document can be purchased from Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) e-tendering page (Supplier Login) from the date of publication of this announcement. The applicants shall pay the tender fee through electronic payment gateway through Supplier Login.

Applicants who are not registered with Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) shall register from <https://owwsc.nama.om/Business-with-Us/Vendor-Registration> to have the login credentials of Supplier portal. All applicants who have paid the tender fee shall have access to the Tender Documents through Nama Water Services e-tendering page (Supplier Login). All participating Companies shall submit a Bid Bond of 1% of the bid value in a sealed envelope to Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) Chairman of Tender Committee not later than 2:00 pm on the bid submission date.

Bid Bond must be obtained from a Bank registered in the Sultanate of Oman and it should be addressed in favour of Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services). The bid along with all required documents shall be uploaded through Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) e-tendering page not later than 2:00 pm on the date specified above.

For more details refer to Tender Page of our website www.owwsc.nama.om or Email to: tender@owwsc.nama.om



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Adventurers’ paradise: Hadash village in Wadi Mistal draws thrill-seekers

Tourists visit this village due to its nature, beauty, preservation of its ancient character

Times News Service

Nakhal: Hadash village is located in Wadi Mistal in the Wilayat of Nakhal, South Al Batinah Governorate.

It has many tourist attractions, such as old lanes, agricultural paths, water ponds, rock writings, and various tree oases scattered in the village, reflecting the life of the citizens.

The houses in the village are built in the old Omani architectural style, and it is located adjacent to the wilayat of Jabal Al Akhdar in the Al Dakhiliyah Governorate.

Tourists visit this village due to its nature, beauty, preservation of its ancient character, and unique location.

The Department of Heritage and Tourism in South Al Batinah Governorate said that Hadash Village is famous for its old buildings, forts and towers.

Dr. Al Mutasim bin Nasser Al Hilali, Director of Heritage and Tourism Department in South Al Batinah Governorate, said that Hadash village features are hidden from the world due to the mountain peaks of Wadi Mistal.

He added that due to its location, the village was part of the caravan of ancient mountain paths, and it was part of the route used by the people to move between the village of Hadash and other villages,



whether in the Wilayat of Nakhal or in other villages in the Al Dakhiliyah Governorate. They moved to meet their daily needs and social and cultural exchanges.

He said that all seasons of the year are suitable for lovers of adventures.

The adventure tourism starts along the mountain routes which take the tourist in a tour to explore elements of nature which contribute to attracting tourists to the region activity like the rest of the mountainous villages in Wadi Mistal in the Wilayat of Nakhal,

where visitors can practice mountain hiking, discover the nature, and learn about the ancient transportation paths that the people used to reach the villages.

Thrill and challenges

The adventurers favour these

mountain routes for thrill and challenges, he said, adding the route to Al Afia village in the Wilayat of Sumail of Al Dakhiliyah Governorate is one of the famous mountain routes of Hadash Village.

He added that the village of Ha-

dash is famous for its many crops, the most prominent of which are apricot trees, where the apricot fruit flowers blend with the colours of citrus flowers, trees and plants distributed on agricultural terraces, especially during the spring season. -ONA

ROYAL ACADEMY FOR MANAGEMENT

Forum on future of higher education institutions kicks off at RAM

MUSCAT: Activities of the Future of Higher Education Institutions Forum kicked off on Wednesday at the headquarters of the Royal Academy for Management (RAM).

The two-day forum aims to groom and empower national competencies and comes in line with Oman's future vision and its priorities and national targets.

Moreover, the forum is organized by RAM in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

As many as 8 discussion panels will be held during the forum to discuss the role of higher education institutions in boosting national competitiveness and innovation.

It also highlights developments in the higher education sector and possible areas for development to keep pace with international trends.

Enhancing partnership between public and private educational institutions is discussed during the event, in addition to means of devising new visions that augment innovation and entrepreneurship and stimulate



economic development.

The Future of Higher Education Institutions Forum is participated by presidents of universities,

deans of public and private colleges and representatives from national and international public and private sector organisations. -ONA

NEW ALTERNATIVES

Advisory Authority of GCC discusses energy security

MUSCAT: The Advisory Authority of the GCC Supreme Council yesterday held the second meeting of its 27th session in Muscat.

It discussed working papers on studies entrusted to it by GCC leaders, notably the issue of energy security in the GCC region within the context of new alternatives and technical systems.

Risk of drug addiction

The Authority also discussed a

strategy to protect young people in GCC states from the risk of drug addiction, as well as ways to maintain the growth of emerging markets and safeguard them against negative impacts of developments affecting the global economy.

In its last meeting, the Advisory Authority referred to GCC leaders its views on topics of its agenda for approval during the forthcoming GCC summit. -ONA



FOUR-DAY EVENT

COMEX 2024 Technology Exhibition to begin on 27 May



MUSCAT: COMEX 2024 Technology Exhibition will kick off on 27 May at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC).

The four-day event is organised by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology in cooperation with the Arabian Research Bureau.

This was unveiled during a press conference held today at the Ministry headquarters.

Dr. Ali Amer Al Shidhani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Communications and Information Technology pointed out that the Ministry aims to make the exhibition a technology investment destination and a gathering to

More than 100 Omani startups with technology products and digital solutions and services will be participating at COMEX 2024.

enhance the goals of the National Programme for Digital Economy.

The Undersecretary added that the exhibition will showcase indicators of development in the National Programme for Digital Economy.

More than 100 Omani startups

with technology products and digital solutions and services will be participating at COMEX 2024.

The event is held with support from the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED), Omantel, ITHCA Group, the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Al Shidhani said.

Further, the events of the exhibition include the 2nd Digital Transformation Forum. The forum is a platform to highlight best practices in the field of digital transformation and shedding light on regional and international experiences of digital and technology fields. -ONA

Housing ministry signs contracts worth more than OMR12.5 million

The contracts were signed in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning on Wednesday signed 62 usufruct contracts in the agriculture and industry sectors with an investment value exceeding OMR12.5 million.

The contracts were signed in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises



Development (ASMED). Seven of the contracts were signed for the implementation of projects based on the outputs of food security laboratories. They had an investment value of more than OMR1.5 million. The projects will come up in the governorates of Al Dakhiliyah, Dhofar and South Al Batinah. They will enhance food security and contribute to the growth of the agriculture sector.

Five of the contracts also were

allocated for agriculture projects awarded through Tatweer platform. They had an investment value of more than OMR2.6 million. They will be implemented in the governorates of Al Buraimi, Dhofar and Al Dhahirah.

Four of the contracts were signed to establish branches for Oman Agricultural Association in the governorates of Al Buraimi, Al Dhahirah, North A'Sharqiyah and South A'Sharqiyah.

Twenty-eight of the usufruct contracts were signed for implementation of projects to grow wheat in Al Najd area in the Governorate of Dhofar. They had an investment value of more than OMR5.6 million.

Small and medium enterprises

The contracts also included 12 contracts allocated to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in



the Governorates of South Al Batinah and A'Dakhiliyah. They had an investment value of more than OMR998,000. The projects, which will cover a total area of more than 6,000 square metres, will serve the industrial and commercial sectors.

Six usufruct contracts were signed for the implementation of investment and development projects in the governorates of South Al Batinah, A'Dakhiliyah, North A'Sharqiyah and Dhofar. With an

investment value of more than RO 1.7 million, the contracts will serve the agricultural and industrial sectors.

The contracts were signed by Eng. Hamad Ali Al Nazwani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning for Housing, in the presence of Eng. Yaqoub Khalfan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources for Fisheries. -ONA

THE NETHERLANDS EMBASSY CELEBRATES NATIONAL DAY

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands held a reception at the Kempinski Hotel in Muscat on Tuesday evening to celebrate the National Day. The ceremony was attended by a number of officials in the Sultanate of Oman, heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the Sultanate of Oman, and a number of officials from the Foreign Ministry. -ONA



EMBASSY OF JAPAN

Japan's Foreign Minister certificate awarded to Dr. Suad

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Embassy of Japan in the Sultanate of Oman organised a function on 24 April 2024, at Crowne Plaza, Muscat, to present the Foreign Minister's Commendation to Dr. Suad Al Mudhaffar, founder and former Principal of Azzan bin Qais International School.

The ceremony was attended by a number of senior Omani officials and dignitaries from the Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Education and Educational Institutions. Jota Yamamoto, Ambassador of Japan to the Sultanate of Oman presented the commendation to Dr. Suad Al Mudhaffar on behalf of the Foreign Minister of



Japan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan awarded the certificate to Dr. Suad on 22 August 2023, in recognition of her role in fostering valuable connections in the education field between Japan and Oman and enriching cultural ties between the two nations.



AI-DRIVEN INSIGHTS

Research to revolutionise educational practices

<FROM A1 The research identified attendance, CGPA, and midterm exam grades as pivotal indicators for forecasting academic outcomes, enabling instructors to work out interventions tailored to individual student's needs.

Dr. Khan emphasised the significance of these findings in revolutionising educational practices,

and believes that AI can serve as a cornerstone for driving innovation and enhancing learning outcomes across diverse educational settings.

Crucially, the study underscores the importance of interpretable and actionable models, facilitating instructors' ability to identify

and support underperforming students proactively.

AI-driven insights

By integrating AI-driven insights into educational strategies, the research team aims to empower instructors with timely interventions that optimise student success.

Collaborating alongside Dr. Ijaz Khan in this pioneering endeavour were researchers Dr. Abdul Rahim Ahmad, Dr. Nafaa Jabeur, and Dr. Mohammed Najah Mahdi. Their collective efforts represented a significant stride towards harnessing the potential of AI to transform education and foster a culture of continuous improvement.

ROYAL HOSPITAL



Pacemaker implanted into heart nerve successfully

MUSCAT: The National Centre for Cardiac Medicine and Surgery at the Royal Hospital succeeded in implanting a pacemaker in the left heart nerve of three patients.

The surgery was the first of its kind in the Sultanate of Oman.

This innovative technology is distinguished for better serving heart failure patients, due to the fact that it is less complicated and more effective.

The pacemaker cable, implanted in the upper ventricular

septum, was inserted in the left nerve bundle and then connected to the pacemaker device placed under the skin.

This surgery constitutes a step forward in the Centre's ongoing efforts to provide the best healthcare to patients using the latest technological developments.

This technology, now applied in three cases, proved to be efficient in improving heart functions and the quality of life of patients. It scheduled a standard operation in the future. -ONA



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	Closing Time/ Day/ Date	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
2024/1733	Maintenance and painting of Al Qabil Health Centre, administration and housing Affiliated with the General Directorate of Health Services in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate	Before 10 am on TUESDAY 14/ MAY/ 2024	Before 10 am on SUNDAY 09/ JUNE /2024	Specialized companies registered with the Tender Board at the fourth level	R.O 25.000 per set

Notes:-

- All Specialized and interested Companies registered with Tender Board may obtain Tender documents from the E. Tendering website: etendering.tenderboard.gov.om against non-refundable payment as mentioned above.
- The DGHS is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.

Any Clarification, you may contact via
Telephone: 24402200, Email: etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om

Fewer Indians keen to work abroad: Survey

The number of Indians who are willing to work abroad have declined from 78 per cent in 2020 to 54 per cent in 2023

NEW DELHI: The number of Indians seeking opportunities in abroad have marked a dip in 2023. According to a recent study, the number of Indians who are willing to work abroad have declined from 78 per cent in 2020 to 54 per cent in 2023. The study 'International Mobility Trends' was conducted by BCG (Boston Consulting Group) a global consulting firm. India's ranking as a preferred destination has also gone up by 6 points over the last five years. While Bengaluru and Delhi continue to be preferred destinations for those willing to work in India, but their overall ranking among global cities has gone down. Ahmedabad has entered the top 100 global cities for the first time since the report was first launched in 2018. In a recent analysis of global workforce preferences, data indicates a notable trend in individuals considering India as a desirable lo-



cation for employment. The findings reveal that individuals from various countries, led by those from the UAE, express a keen interest in working in India. Following closely behind are individuals from Nigeria and Kenya, suggesting a growing appeal of India's work opportunities on the international stage. "In recent years, India has emerged as a beacon for professionals seeking dynamic career opportunities, both domestically and globally. This surge in popularity is underscored by its increasing rank on the global index of preferred working destinations, having gained six rank points in the last five years," said Neetu Chitkara MD & Partner, India Lead People and Organisation Practice, BCG. While the preferences of Indian workers seeking employment abroad have undergone a significant shift. Earlier top preference by Indians to work was UAE but

in the current scenario of 2024, the UAE has slipped to the sixth position in the rankings. Instead, countries such as the Australia, USA, Canada, Germany, and the UK have emerged as the favoured destinations for Indian workers seeking opportunities abroad. Countries like Australia, the US, Canada and the UK are the four most desirable countries to move in by the people globally. In the city list London is on top priority with New York also in the top five. The survey also reveals that people from fast-growing population and youngsters are the most mobile around the world. The survey also highlights that globally people moves abroad primarily for professional progress, around 64 per cent of respondents have cited financial and economic reasons and 56 per cent have given career considerations such as work experience as their top reasons for moving abroad.

The quality of job opportunities is the top decisive factor by 65 per cent of respondents as main reason for choosing a particular country. While the quality of life and climate ranked second most important factor for choosing a particular country as their destination. Other country-specific characteristics such as opportunities for citizenship (18 percent) and health care (15 percent) also play a role but are tagged as secondary factors by the respondents. The survey includes the response of 1.5 lakh people from 188 countries and it highlights that moving abroad for work remains a dream for many around the world, with 23 percent of professionals actively seeking jobs in other countries, and 63 percent expressing an overall willingness to do so. Despite the desire to work abroad, the survey found that 59% of Indian respondents were unwilling to relocate due to a strong emotional attachment to their country, well above the global average of 33%. India is one of the major contributor of workforce around the world. According to the data by Ministry of External Affairs, there are 13.6 million Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), 18.68 million Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), and nearly 32.3 million Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) residing outside India, and overseas Indians comprise the world's largest overseas diaspora. Every year, 2.5 million (25 lakh) Indians migrate overseas, which is the highest annual number of migrants in the world. — ANI

VISIT TO THE CANCER TREATMENT CENTRE

King Charles III returns to public duties

LONDON: After months of battling an unspecified cancer, King Charles III has returned to his royal duties, marking his first official engagement since his diagnosis. Encouraged by his medical team's positive feedback on his progress, the 75-year-old monarch resumed public-facing activities with a visit to a cancer treatment centre in London, according to

media report. Accompanied by his wife, Queen Camilla, King Charles embarked on his visit to the cancer treatment centre, where he engaged with patients and clinicians alike. Their presence was warmly received by well-wishers gathered nearby, as the royal couple exuded vitality and grace upon their arrival at the hospital.

Camilla, who has long been an advocate for cancer care and support through her presidency at Maggie's, provided steadfast support to her husband throughout the engagement, according to CNN. Despite his recent health challenges, King Charles has remained committed to his role as patron of Macmillan Cancer Support for

nearly thirty years. His decision to prioritize this cause underscores his dedication to raising awareness about the importance of early diagnosis and innovative cancer research. During the visit, King Charles emphasised the significance of early detection, drawing from his own personal journey with cancer. — ANI

IRELAND

Police dismantle asylum-seekers housing in Dublin

DUBLIN: Police began dismantling about 200 tents housing asylum-seekers in Ireland's capital, Dublin, early on Wednesday. The government said police and other authorities were removing the migrants from the tents on Mount Street in the center of the capital and moving them to shelters. Buses were on standby to take the people away. People will not be allowed to return to the camp once it is cleared, Prime Minister Simon Harris had said on Tuesday. "Once we clear Mount Street and provide people with a safer setting and access to sanitation, we need to make sure that the laws of the land are applied and it is not allowed to happen again because we do not live in a country where makeshift shantytowns are allowed to just develop," he said. The tents first appeared about a year ago on the sidewalks around the office of the International Protection Office, which examines asylum claims. Ireland is trying to accommodate record numbers of refugees while struggling with a housing shortage. After running out of accommodation, the government agency responsible for housing asylum-seekers began handing out tents to some new arrivals last December. Protests over housing and the added pressure of new arrivals have been mostly peaceful. But far-right activists attacked police last December after three children were stabbed to death by a man identified by Irish media as being born in Algeria. Six people were arrested last week after a standoff with police at a building in Wicklow, south of Dublin. The building is meant to house asylum seekers. — DW

SOUTH AFRICA

Apartheid victims demand reparations

JOHANNESBURG: The voices of some 50 elderly protesters are heard echoing in song across the grounds of South Africa's Constitutional Court in Johannesburg, the commercial heart of South Africa. They are demanding justice and reparations for abuses suffered under apartheid — 30 years after the country became a democracy. They are all members of the Khulumani Support Group and the Galela Campaign — two groups fighting for financial redress for the victims of white minority rule under apartheid. The protesters say that since they weren't identified as victims of human rights abuses during apartheid by South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), led by the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu 28 years ago, they haven't benefited from any reparations paid out by the government to date. While the group have protested in front of the court intermittently for years, their permanent camp outside the Constitutional Court only started in November 2023. One of the protestors is Thabo Shabangu. He was shot in the back by police officers in 1990 during a demonstration against the oppression of the majority black population by the white regime — just as the country was warming up to the idea of equality and democracy. The 61-year-old told DW that he has never received any compensation for his injuries. He feels abandoned, he says: "I am so very, very disappointed. We are the revolutionaries, we are the people that formed this democracy, we are the first democracy people. It is us that fought for the reparations that today we are not eating the fruit of." Shabangu wants reparations



for the suffering he experienced during the struggle against apartheid, as well as greater medical and social support. Like around a third of all South Africans, he is unemployed, and money is scarce. "We thought the TRC would bring us justice," he says about South Africa's democracy project. Those protesting with him outside the Constitutional Court say despite their role in the fight for South Africa to become a democracy three decades ago, they won't vote in South Africa's upcoming 2024 elections in May if reparations aren't paid: "No reparations — no vote," says Shabangu. Formal hearings before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission began in April 1996 and ended in October 1998, with then President Nelson Mandela personally appointing Tutu to chair the commission. Its aim was to promote reconciliation and forgiveness, rather

than retribution, between perpetrators and victims of apartheid. During this period, the commission focused on evidence of killings, abductions and torture of people, as well as other human rights abuses. Victims and perpetrators often sat opposite each other in community halls and churches across the country. Perpetrators who gave a full account of what had happened were granted amnesty — a painful compromise for many victims. But the promise of impunity brought to light the truth about the fate of many people who had disappeared without a trace, those who had been abducted, killed and buried somewhere. Thus, just two years after the African National Congress (ANC) came to power in the first democratic elections in 1994, the atrocities of the past were in the public spotlight. To no one's surprise, the vast

majority of those who had suffered at the hands of the apartheid state were found to be black South Africans, although some cases also involved white victims as well as others. In 2003, when the truth commission eventually published its delayed recommendations for repatriations, it recognized 21,000 victims and recommended paying them a monthly allowance administered by a special presidential fund. This list was later cut down to 17,000 people eligible for reparations. However, then President Thabo Mbeki arranged for a one-off payment of 30,000 rand (worth \$3,890 or €3,600 at the time) instead. As well as the one-off payments, the fund was also supposed to be used to support victims' housing, education and healthcare but in June 2023, it still had around \$100 million in unused assets. The protestors outside the

Constitutional Court say that is should be opened up for new payments. However, there is still the issue of who is and who isn't officially recognized as a victim of apartheid. Calls for the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to reopen the investigation into who qualifies are mounting. The national director of the Khulumani, Marjorie Dobson, says the group has tens of thousands of members who were unable to make a claim when the TRC was holding its hearings in the 1990s. For one, the government failed to give sufficient notice of how victims could make their declarations to the truth commission, she tells DW. But many victims also lacked money to travel to attend hearings. "We have documented this all for the Department of Justice because we think it's completely unjustified to just close the doors when all this work has been documented and the flaws are actually on the side of the state," Dobson says. Danisile Mabanga, whose family was forcibly displaced during apartheid, is among those still hoping to receive compensation. "We knew about the commission, but we didn't manage to go there," she tells DW. "Times were hard and we were scared." Justice Minister Ronald Lamola meanwhile says he sees no reason for the people to stay protesting at the court: "They should go home," he told DW in an interview. "There is nothing that we can do. The parliament has the [victims'] list, it's closed. And it would be an irregularity to for us open the list." — DW

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HUSH MONEY CASE

Donald Trump fined \$9,000 for violating gag order

NEW YORK: Former US President Donald Trump was held in contempt of court and fined \$9,000 for repeatedly violating a gag order that barred him from making public statements about witnesses, jurors and some others connected to his New York hush-money case, according to media report.



Judge Juan Merchan has fined Donald Trump for repeatedly violating the gag order nine times for criticising expected trial witnesses in posts on social media and his campaign page. "Trump must pay the \$9,000 fine by the end of the week," the court orders Trump. Additionally, the court ordered Trump to remove the seven "offending posts" from Truth Social and the two "offending posts" from his campaign website by 2:15pm (local time), as per CNN. Merchan also threatened Trump "that the Court will not tolerate continued willful violations of its lawful orders and that if necessary and appropriate under the circumstances, it will impose an incarceration punishment." Trump didn't react to the Merchan judgement. According to CNN, prosecutors alleged Merchan held Trump in contempt for breaching the gag order, pointing to 10 social media posts made before and during the trial. These posts allegedly violated the judge's restrictions prohibiting Trump from commenting on witnesses and jurors. Prosecutors also sought the removal of the posts.

Trump's remarks about Michael Cohen, Stormy Daniels, and the makeup of the jury pool were highlighted by the prosecution. The judge made the ruling following a contentious hearing last week, marked by heated exchanges between him and Trump's defence attorney, Todd Blanche. Additionally, the Prosecutors pointed out four comments that Trump has made since last week's hearing, including about Cohen and former AMI chief David Pecker, who testified last week. Merchan has scheduled another hearing on Thursday to address those comments. \$1,000 per violation is the maximum allowed by New York State law. Trump is accused of falsifying business records related to a hush-money deal with an adult film actress made ahead of the 2016 election, The Hill reported. He has pleaded not guilty. According to prosecutors formulation, Donald Trump skirted campaign finance laws by funneling a payment of USD 130,000 to adult-film actress Stormy Daniels through Michael Cohen, his attorney and then falsely claiming that the money used to repay Cohen was for legal work. — ANI

Hamas-Israel war: Gaza death toll reaches 34,568

Just within the last 24 hours, the occupation forces committed four massacres against families in the Strip, killing 33 people and injuring 57 others

GAZA: The death toll at the hands of Israel in the Gaza Strip has climbed to 34,568 Palestinians since October 7, according to medical sources.

They said that the number of Palestinians killed by the occupation forces in the blockaded war-torn Strip has risen to 34,568 and those injured to 77,765 since the onset of the Israeli genocidal offensive on the Strip on October 7.

They noted that just within the last 24 hours, the occupation forces committed four massa-



crs against families in the Strip, killing 33 people and injuring 57 others.

Moreover, at least 7,000 people are unaccounted for, presumed dead under the rubble of their homes throughout the Strip.

Palestinian and international organizations say that the majority of those killed and wounded are women and children.

The Israeli aggression has also resulted in the forceful displacement of nearly two million people from all over the Gaza Strip, with the vast majority of the displaced

forced into the densely crowded southern city of Rafah near the border with Egypt – in what has become Palestine’s largest mass exodus since the 1948 Nakba.

Scarce relief is allowed to enter Gaza

Relief aid allowed entry into the blockaded Gaza Strip is scarce, according to Social Development Minister Samah Hamad.

Speaking to Palestine radio, Hamad said that coordination was underway with partners, particularly the Red Crescent Society,

to distribute relief aid across the northern, southern and central districts of the Strip.

She added that the relief aid that reaches the northern Strip is scarce, as while 30 to 35 truckloads of relief aid are allowed entry to the Strip via the Rafah border crossing, only six truckloads make their way to the Ministry, and considered this quantity insufficient.

She pointed out that while the majority of relief aid that reach the Strip is in-kind, the warehouses designed to store such aid were

expanded and an agreement was reached with CSOs on the storage and distribution mechanism to ensure reach to the largest number of Palestinians and distributional justice.

She also pointed out that intensive meetings were held with the UNICEF and other international actors to secure financial aid given the problem of the availability of cash/liquidity in banks in Gaza.

UN official warns against invading Rafah

Meanwhile, in New York, UN’s humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said in a statement that an Israeli invasion of the southern blockaded Gaza Strip city of Rafah will be “a tragedy beyond words”.

“The simplest truth is that a ground operation in Rafah will be nothing short of a tragedy beyond words. No humanitarian plan can counter that. The rest is detail”, Griffiths said after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to launch an offensive on Rafah, which has become a refuge to some 1.5 million Palestinians.

He added: “The world has been appealing to the Israeli authorities for weeks to spare Rafah, but a ground operation there is on the immediate horizon.” — Agencies

UAE President mourns death of Tahnoun bin Mohamed Al Nahyan

ABU DHABI: President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has mourned H.H. Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Ruler’s Representative in Al Ain Region, who passed away on Wednesday.

Presidential Court

The Presidential Court issued the following obituary: “In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful... With hearts faithful to God’s decree and destiny, President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan mourns his uncle, H.H. Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Ruler’s Representative in Al Ain Region, who passed away today.”

Flags flown at half-mast

The Presidential Court declared official mourning with flags flown at half-mast for a period of seven days starting from Wednesday, corresponding to May 1st.

May God shower the deceased with His vast mercy and dwell him in paradise, and grant the Al Nahyan family patience and solace.” — WAM

19 dead after road collapses

GUANGDONG: A section of a highway collapsed in southern China leaving at least 19 people dead, state broadcaster CCTV reported on Wednesday.

In total, 18 vehicles were reportedly trapped in the collapse and rescue workers took dozens of people to the hospital. The 17.9-metre-long section of a road collapsed in the early hours of Wednesday in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong, according to authorities in Meizhou City.

Witnesses who had driven past the section of the road just before it collapsed told local media they heard a loud noise and that a hole several metres wide opened up behind them. — DW

UK sends voluntary asylum-seeker to Rwanda

LONDON: The United Kingdom has sent its first asylum-seeker to Rwanda under a voluntary scheme, British media reports said, a week after the UK government adopted a controversial law allowing irregular migrants to be deported to the East African nation.

The voluntary scheme is separate from the government’s forced deportation programme that seeks to deter asylum seekers from crossing the English Channel in small boats to live in the UK.

The contentious law allows the UK government to expel undocumented migrants to Rwanda, where they would be allowed to remain if their asylum applications are successful.

They would not be allowed to



return to the UK.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s Conservative government plans to begin the expulsions by July.

Meanwhile, the unnamed man — who left the UK on Monday — is the first to have voluntarily moved to Rwanda after being offered up to 3,000 pounds (£3,515, \$3,740) of financial aid as part of the sepa-

rate scheme, media reports said.

He had agreed to be sent to Kigali after his asylum request was rejected late last year, several media outlets reported.

The man — who is not Rwandan but said to be of “African origin” — left on a commercial flight to Kigali, The Sun newspaper reported.

The news comes just days before local elections in England and Wales in which the ruling Conservatives are expected to suffer major losses to the opposition Labour Party.

Sunak has made “stopping the boats” one of his five promises to the public, with the asylum-seeker’s removal seen as a signal to voters that his government’s wider migration plan can be made to work.

“We are now able to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda under our migration and economic development partnership,” a government spokesperson said.

“This deal allows people with no immigration status in the UK to be relocated to a safe third country where they will be supported to rebuild their lives,” the

spokesperson said.

The government’s forced deportation plan has come under fire from the United Nations and rights groups.

On Monday, a British government document showed that the first asylum-seekers to be deported from the UK to Rwanda would come from a group of 5,700 people that Kigali has agreed in principle to accept.

More than 7,000 migrants have arrived in the UK so far this year, making it a record high for the first four months of a calendar year.

Rwanda — which has a population of 13 million people — claims to be one of the most stable nations on the African continent and has been praised for its modern infrastructure. — DW

Landmark Dubai Reef sustainability project officially launched

Times News Service

MUSCAT: His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, has inaugurated the landmark Dubai Reef project with the launch of the pilot reef modules.

A sustainable initiative by Dubai Can, Dubai Reef is the world’s largest marine reef development project and marks a pioneering step in Dubai’s efforts to promote ecological sustainability.

Working around a plan to deploy 20,000 purpose-built reef modules of various sizes over a four-year period, Dubai Reef marks a significant endeavour for the city that will span a staggering 600 square kilometres across Dubai’s waters. The meticulously crafted design of the reef units will see them exceed 400,000 cubic metres in volume.

In line with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan and The Executive Council of Dubai, the Dubai Reef project is a city-wide collaboration uniting key partners to support the wider strategic goals and ambitions of Dubai and the UAE, including the Dubai Economic Agenda (D33), the UAE’s Green Agenda – 2030, and the UAE Net Zero 2050 strategy.

Sheikh Hamdan said: “The landmark Dubai Reef initiative is a testament to the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. Reef ecosystems are unique life sources and vital components in the protection of marine life. Dubai Can’s Dubai Reef project will inject vitality into our coastal waters and contribute to global conservation efforts. The project’s significant long-term environmental and socio-economic impacts will serve



Dubai’s commitment to ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.”

With an initial proof of concept championed by His Excellency Ahmed Mohammed bin Thani and contractors HaejooX in 2021, the first modules have now been activated as part of the Dubai Reef pilot project. Working alongside the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET), the newly formed Dubai Environment and Climate Change Authority (DECCA) will be a critical partner in ensuring successful project delivery. As Director General of DECCA, His Excellency Bin Thani will continue to play a key role in supporting the Dubai Reef project and further strengthen the emirate’s

advocacy in the realm of environmental protection and climate action. DP World; Dubai Chambers; Nakheel; the Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation; and Emirates join DET as strategic partners in the Dubai Reef project.

His Excellency, Helal Saeed Almarri, Director General of DET, said: “Aligned with the visionary leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and guided by the directives of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, the Dubai Reef project showcases

the emirate’s enduring commitment to sustainability and environmental conservation. This collaboration between public and private sector entities will see each partner bring their expertise to drive Dubai’s sustainable future and contribute towards achieving the ambitious goals set forth in the D33 Agenda.”

His Excellency Ahmed Mohammed bin Thani, Director General of DECCA, said: “The Dubai Reef project will provide diverse environments to attract and stimulate fish and marine life. In 2021, we partnered with leading reef developer HaejooX to launch a two-year proof of concept, analysing the effectiveness of purpose-built reefs in Dubai. The study used advanced



technologies and utilised a three-dimensional scanning system to understand the quantities and types of fish present. Preliminary data showed an abundant expansion in marine life.”

The Dubai Reef initiative is a strategic investment set to leave a lasting legacy in terms of protecting marine life and environmental sustainability.

The project’s key drivers include enhancing biodiversity, safeguarding Dubai’s coastal and marine habitats, supporting fish populations, and increasing ecosystem resilience.

The project will also encourage environmental stewardship, strengthen socio-economic prosperity and ecotourism, and pre-

serve Dubai’s marine heritage.

The project has won over renowned investor Ray Dalio who is involved in various philanthropic initiatives and takes a keen interest in ocean exploration and conservation. “I love this audacious Dubai Reef project because it will be a remarkable contribution to the world’s understanding of the benefits of ocean restoration and as well make the Dubai environment healthier and provide an incredible recreation park. Once again, Dubai is pursuing an ambitiously great project, this time under the visionary guidance of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan. It is an amazing project in an amazing place under amazing leadership,” he further said.

SPORTS

Ilyas to lead Oman at T20 World Cup

The 15-member squad, coached by Duleep Mendis, comprises mostly all-rounders and will compete at the continental showpiece for the third time

MUSCAT: Experienced all-rounder Aqib Ilyas has been entrusted with the responsibility of leading Oman at the forthcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, to be jointly hosted by West Indies and the USA from June 1-29.

Ilyas replaces long-serving skipper Zeeshan Maqsood at the team's helm and the 15-member announced on Wednesday doesn't have many surprises. The 36-year-old Maqsood had captained Oman on 92 occasions.

National team head coach and Oman Cricket's chief development officer Duleep Mendis has reposed faith in his experienced players, with nine of the team members having featured in Oman's previous participation at the T20 World Cup in 2021.

Among the six players who will be making their debut at the T20 World Cup are specialist batters, Kashyap Prajapati and Khalid Kail, wicketkeeper Pratik Athavale, spinner Shakeel Ahmad, and all-rounders Shoaib Khan and Rafiullah.

Skipper Ilyas and Maqsood along with Mohammad Nadeem, Ayaan Khan, Rafiullah, Mehran Khan and Shoaib Khan are designated all-rounders while the pace attack will be spearheaded by Bilal Khan, Fayyaz Butt, and Kaleemullah. Shakeel Ahmad is the spe-



cialist left-arm orthodox spinner, who will be supported by Ilyas, Maqsood and Ayaan in the spin department. Athavale and Naseem Khushi will be the two wicket-keepers in the squad.

Oman played their maiden ICC T20 World Cup in 2016 in India and four players from the team - Maqsood, Nadeem, Mehran and Bilal - still continue to play key roles for the national side. The quartet were joined by Ilyas, Butt, Kaleemullah, Khushi and Ayaan at the 2021 T20 World Cup that was jointly hosted by Oman and the UAE. Four reserves were also named on Wednesday and among them are Jatinder Singh, Samay Shrivastava, Sufyan Mehmood and Jay Odedra.

'Honoured to take over Oman captaincy'

"I am truly honoured to be entrusted with the captaincy," said Aqib Ilyas, brimming with enthusiasm.

"It's a huge responsibility, and I aim to lead the team to many victories. We are preparing rigorously for the World Cup, and the recent ACC Premier Cup has provided us with invaluable preparation."

Ilyas expressed his "thanks to Oman Cricket" for "believing in him".

Highlighting the team's ambitions, Ilyas affirmed, "Our goal is to qualify for the next round. We are not merely making up the numbers; we are determined to showcase our talent and prove

that our journey to the World Cup was no fluke."

Coach Duleep Mendis shared his optimism, and said, "I have high hopes for our boys under Aqib Ilyas's leadership. With a balanced team, we are capable of surprising a few nations in the West Indies."

Reflecting on the transition, Mendis paid tribute to former skipper Zeeshan Maqsood [Shani], acknowledging his remarkable contribution to Oman Cricket. "Shani has rendered yeoman service as a skipper," Mendis remarked. "He is among the best Oman has ever produced, and even won the Cricketer of the Year award among Associate Nations in 2022.

"We want him to play freely as

an all-rounder, his contribution will be vital."

The former Sri Lankan Test star, who will be leading Oman to their third ICC Men's T20 World Cup appearance, said: "We wish to make an impact at the World Cup and with a balanced team, we are capable of surprising a few nations in the West Indies."

The squad, dominated by versatile all-rounders, features a mix of seasoned campaigners and promising World Cup debutants, signalling Oman's intent to make a mark on the global stage. Facing formidable opponents in Group B, including defending champions England, Australia, Namibia and Scotland, Oman aim to defy odds and leave an indelible mark on the tournament.

Oman squad: Aqib Ilyas (captain), Zeeshan Maqsood, Kashyap Prajapati, Pratik Athavale (wk), Ayaan Khan, Shoaib Khan, Mohammad Nadeem, Naseem Khushi (wk), Mehran Khan, Bilal Khan, Rafiullah, Kaleemullah, Fayyaz Butt, Shakeel Ahmad. Reserves: Jatinder Singh, Samay Shrivastava, Sufyan Mehmood, Jay Odedra.

Officials: Duleep Mendis (head coach), Evert Laubscher (assistant coach), Sean Novak (physio), Mazhar Khan (coach co-ordinator), Zeeshan Siddiqui (video analyst), Champaka Ramanyake (bowling coach), Alkesh Joshi (team manager), Dr Manjunath (team doctor), Varun Khimji (media manager) and Amjad Khan (masseur).





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CR NO - 1622358

Capacity increased by 13.9 percent year-on-year and the load factor fell 2.1 percent to 77.5 percent compared to March 2023, the IATA report said



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Middle Eastern airlines saw a 10.8 percent year-on-year increase in demand, according to a new report published by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) for March 2024 global passenger demand. "Capacity increased 13.9 percent year-on-year and the load factor fell -2.1 percent to 77.5 percent compared to March 2023," the report further said.

European carriers saw an 11.6 percent year-on-year increase in demand while capacity increased 11.4 percent year-on-year, and the load factor was 79.9 percent (up just 0.1 percent compared to March 2023), the IATA report added.

Meanwhile, North American carriers saw a 14.5 percent year-on-year increase in demand. Capacity increased 14.8 percent year-on-year, and the load factor fell to 84.7 percent (-0.2 percent com-

pared to March 2023).

The IATA report further said that total demand, measured in revenue passenger kilometres (RPKs), was up 13.8 percent compared to March 2023. Total capacity, measured in available seat kilometres (ASK), was up 12.3 percent year-on-year. The March load factor was 82 percent (+1 percent compared to March 2023).

International demand rose 18.9 percent compared to March 2023; capacity was up 18.8 percent year-on-year and the load factor improved to 81.6 percent (+0.1 percent in March 2023).

Domestic demand rose 6.6 percent compared to March 2023; capacity was up 3.4 percent year-on-year and the load factor was 82.6 percent (+2.5 percent compared to March 2023).

“Demand for travel is strong. And there is every indication that this should continue into the peak

Northern Summer travel season. It is critical that we have the capacity to meet this demand and ensure a hassle-free travel experience for passengers. That means making urgent progress to resolve supply chain issues and for airports and air traffic management to be fully staffed and operating at maximum efficiency," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

"While airlines are prepared for customer care and assistance when operational issues arise, they are fed-up of bearing the cost when delays and cancellations are the result of poor preparation in other parts of the value chain," he further added.

All regions showed strong growth for international passenger markets in March 2024 compared to March 2023. Load factor performance was patchy, falling year-on-year in three of the six regions.

Asia-Pacific airlines continue to lead with way, with a 38.5 percent year-on-year increase in demand. Capacity increased 37.4 percent year-on-year and the load factor rose to 85.6 percent (+0.7 percent compared to March 2023), the highest among all regions. Major routes from Asia-Pacific display outstanding growth, although the number of scheduled air services from China to North America is still only 16.5 percent of pre-pandemic levels.

Latin American airlines saw a 19.7 percent year-on-year increase in demand. Capacity climbed 18.3 percent year-on-year. The load factor rose to 84.3 percent (+0.9 percent compared to March 2023).

African airlines saw an 8.1 percent year-on-year increase in demand. Capacity was up 11 percent year-on-year. The load factor fell to 70.3 percent (-1.9 percent compared to March 2023).



Omantel highlights its sustainability role as digital leader

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omantel, Oman's leading integrated ICT services provider participated in the Oman Sustainability Week and showcased the company's diverse initiatives toward sustainable practices, focused on achieving the company's mission of creating a greener world, developing societies, and providing an ideal work environment, in addition to contributing to the comprehensive development of the Sultanate of Oman.

Omantel's positive sustainable practices were showcased at its pavilion at the Oman Sustainability Week which took place from 28 April to 2 May at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, under the theme "Sustainable Living in a Circular Society" to highlight the company's sustainability efforts.

Omantel showcased the company's environmental and social performance, governance practices and deployment of digital technologies to create best practices for sustainability, which contribute to the alignment of

the company's operations with international standards. Omanel highlighted its national initiatives towards community members, institutions and civil and charitable organisations.

Omantel also aimed to conduct enriching dialogues with stakeholders and decision-makers in aspects related to sustainability and explored investment opportunities to find innovative initiatives and technical solutions that contribute to the development and improvement of practices and procedures related to sustainability.

As part of Oman Sustainability Week, Omantel was awarded the Silver Award in the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Practices category during the Oman Sustainability Week Awards ceremony.

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



OmanCables
الكابلات العمانية

OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY (SAOG)
UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR NINE MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Oman Cables Industry (SAOG) "Oman Cables" has the pleasure in submitting the report on the performance of the Parent Company and the Group for three months period ended 31 Mar 2024.

Parent Company - "Oman Cables".
The Group - Oman Cables and its two fully owned subsidiaries: Oman Aluminum Processing Industries SPC in Sohar "OAPIL" and Associated Cables Private Ltd in India "ACPL".

Safety and Well-being of our People
Our Group continues to focus and maintain the occupational health, safety and well-being of our employees as an absolute priority towards a sustainable growth. The Group is continuously improving the related policies and procedures, focusing on e.g. safe workplace, identifying hazards, assessing risks. In addition, the Group continues its focus in executing various projects in terms of safety such as "Zero & Beyond" (towards eliminating all accidents, defects and waste from our processes) and "6S" (a system that aims to promote and sustain a high level of productivity and safety through the workspace, while adhering to the principles of sort, set in order, shine, standardize, sustain and safety). Lost Time Injury Frequency rate (LTI) continues to be actively monitored for the benefit of the employees and Company.

Group Performance
The Sales of the Group for the three months period ended 31 Mar 2024 are RO 61.1 million compared to RO 61.8 million for the same period last year, decrease of 1.1%.
The Group Net Profit after tax (NPAT), for the three months period ended 31 Mar 2024 is RO 5.5 million compared to RO 4.5 million during the same period in 2023, increase of 22.8%.
The Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) for the period is RO 7.0 million compared to RO 5.9 million during the same period in 2023, increase of 18.9%.

Oman Cables (Parent) Performance
The Sales of Oman Cables for the three months period ended 31 Mar 2024 are RO 45.5 million compared to RO 45.9 million in the same period last year, decrease of 0.93 %.
The NPAT for the three months period ended 31 Mar 2024 is RO 3.9 million as compared to RO 3.3 million for the same period in 2023, increase of 18%.

Unaudited Results for three months period ended 31 Mar 2024
EBITDA for the period is RO 4.9 million compared to RO 4.2 million during the same period in 2023, increase of 17%.

During the three months period ended 31 March 2024 there is a slight decrease on revenues which is due to the trend in copper and aluminum prices coupled with product mix, however the results are showing increased profitability that is mainly attributed to the continued focus of the Company on an effective dynamic pricing, an agile design-to- cost, an effective fixed cost management, focus on financial income/cost, while leveraging on a wider product portfolio - including high value-added products and services - and a wider geographical export reach.

Oman Aluminum Processing Industries SPC, Sohar (OAPIL) (subsidiary) and Associated Cables Private Ltd (ACPL), India (Subsidiary) During the three months period ended 31 March 2024 OAPIL continued to deliver better results in terms of profitability, leveraging on high yielding product mix and diversified market presence and favorable market conditions, continuous focus on fixed costs, financial income/cost, improved purchasing efficiencies, strict working capital management.

ACPL results in the three months period ended 31 March 2024 were impacted by lower volumes compared to the same period of 2023. The focus of ACPL remains on diversification and penetration into new market segments, while strengthening efficiencies and design to cost activities to gain better competitiveness, with the support of the Group.

Oman Cables is recognizing the support extended by various Government Authorities and wish the best for our beloved Oman to further develop under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, in line with Oman Vision 2040.

On behalf of the Board of Directors
Oman Cables Industry SAOG

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

	3 Months ended 31 Mar 2024 Group	3 Months ended 31 Mar 2024 Parent Company	3 Months ended 31 Mar 2023 Group	3 Months ended 31 Mar 2023 Parent Company
	RO	RO	RO	RO
Revenue	61,098,588	45,475,810	61,794,090	45,901,215
Cost of sales	(51,804,213)	(38,891,988)	(54,023,505)	(40,139,671)
Gross profit	9,294,375	6,583,822	7,770,585	5,761,544
Other income	218,783	231,974	121,486	108,181
Administrative expenses	(1,690,733)	(1,406,753)	(1,347,131)	(1,128,751)
Selling and distribution expenses	(1,881,127)	(1,215,166)	(1,489,052)	(1,075,384)
Net allowances for credit loss	24,134	24,134	(16,620)	(16,620)
Operating profit	5,965,432	4,218,011	5,039,268	3,648,970
Finance costs	(51,811)	(21,800)	(16,873)	24,465
Finance income	599,851	471,205	240,840	231,001
Profit before income tax	6,513,472	4,667,416	5,263,235	3,904,436
Income tax expense	(1,014,647)	(751,585)	(785,342)	(588,888)
Profit for the year	5,498,825	3,915,831	4,477,893	3,315,548
Basic and diluted earnings per share attributable to ordinary equity holders of the parent company	0.061	0.044	0.050	0.037
Gross profit margin	15.21%	14.48%	12.57%	12.55%
Net profit margin	9.00%	8.61%	7.25%	7.22%

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	3 Months ended 31 Mar 2024 Group	3 Months ended 31 Mar 2024 Parent Company	3 Months ended 31 Mar 2023 Group	3 Months ended 31 Mar 2023 Parent Company
	RO	RO	RO	RO
Net Profit for the year	5,498,825	3,915,831	4,477,893	3,315,548
Other comprehensive income				
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to statement of income or loss, net of tax:				
Net movement in hedging reserve, net of tax	(332,137)	(314,229)	(987,413)	(1,181,726)
Foreign currency translation	(2,951)	-	5,328	-
Net movement in foreign currency translation reserve, net of tax	(17,985)	-	(3,882)	-
Other comprehensive (loss) for the year	(350,122)	(314,229)	(991,295)	(1,181,726)
Total comprehensive income for the year	5,148,703	3,601,602	3,486,598	2,133,822

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET)

	As on 31 Mar 2024 Group	As on 31 Mar 2024 Parent Company	As on 31 Dec. 2023 Group	As on 31 Dec. 2023 Parent Company
	RO	RO	RO	RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	20,768,921	13,401,631	21,353,407	13,786,799
Intangible asset	326,551	326,551	341,281	341,281
Right-of-use assets	3,436,877	1,781,248	3,476,099	1,804,999
Investment in subsidiaries	-	7,789,908	-	7,789,908
Financial assets at amortized cost	1,115,152	1,000,000	1,114,912	1,000,000
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	151,142	151,142	151,142	151,142
Deferred tax assets	102,393	210,684	104,779	96,870
Total non-current assets	25,901,036	24,661,164	26,541,620	24,970,999
Current assets				
Inventories	27,352,621	24,460,951	24,500,131	22,355,019
Derivative financial instruments	231,082	231,082	600,615	600,615
Trade and other receivables	59,525,181	45,793,715	59,441,903	45,679,359
Short term deposits	46,357,188	37,928,290	32,904,482	27,928,290
Cash and cash equivalents	11,896,900	10,570,541	24,947,365	22,207,221
Total current asset	145,362,972	118,984,579	142,394,496	118,770,504
Total assets	171,264,008	143,645,743	168,936,116	143,741,503
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	8,970,000	8,970,000	8,970,000	8,970,000
Share premium	977,500	977,500	977,500	977,500
Legal reserve	4,445,333	2,990,000	4,445,333	2,990,000
General reserve	17,427,334	16,274,395	17,427,334	16,274,395
Retained earnings	96,098,322	83,552,708	98,223,997	87,261,377
Other reserves	928,240	1,245,070	1,027,675	1,334,299
Total equity	128,846,729	114,009,673	131,071,839	117,807,571
Non-current liabilities				
Deferred tax liability	-	-	146,249	-
Leases liability	3,462,181	1,746,588	3,600,172	1,892,065
Employees' end of service benefits	1,828,229	1,594,751	1,810,383	1,564,198
Total non-current liabilities	5,290,410	3,341,339	5,556,804	3,456,263
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	31,935,909	22,662,794	28,261,640	19,655,679
Bank borrowings	11,806	-	-	-
Leases liability	269,509	179,509	275,498	179,509
Derivative financial instruments	93,530	-	52,729	-
Taxation	4,816,115	3,452,428	3,717,606	2,642,481
Total current liabilities	37,126,869	26,294,731	32,307,473	22,477,669
Total liabilities	42,417,279	29,636,070	37,864,277	25,933,932
Total equity and liabilities	171,264,008	143,645,743	168,936,116	143,741,503
Net assets per share	1.436	1.271	1.461	1.313

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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Oman Packaging, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while Ominvest, down 9.07%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,767.23 points, down by 0.36% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.36% at 451.13 points. Oman Packaging, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while Ominvest, down 9.07%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Abraj Energy Services were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 943 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR2.36 million, with more than 13.55 million shares changing hands. Out of 47 traded securities, 17 advanced, 16 declined, and 14 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR234,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR203,000, followed by domestic investors for OMR30,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,712.79 points, down 0.65%. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Sohar International Bank, Global Financial Investments, Bank Muscat were up by 2.94%, 2.22%, 1.39%, 0.76% respectively. Prices of Ominvest, Taageer Finance, United Finance, Al Madina Takaful, Al Anwar Investment were down by 9.07%, 4.59%, 1.64%, 1.22%, 1.12% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,856.34 points, down 0%. Prices of Oman Packaging, A'Saffa Foods, Raysut Cement, Galfar Engineering, Oman Cables Industry were up by 10.00%, 2.42%, 1.50%, 1.26%, 0.65% respectively. Prices of Al Maha Ceramics, Jazeera Steel Products were down by 2.94%, 1.63% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.41% before closing at 1,841.10 points. Prices of Al Maha Marketing, Muscat Desalination, Renaissance Services, OQ Gas Networks, Oman Telecom were up by 6.47%, 2.67%, 1.31%, 0.70%, 0.48% respectively. – **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,800.20	4,763.16	4,767.23	4,784.23	-17.00	-0.36
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,783.44	7,706.00	7,712.79	7,763.07	-50.29	-0.65
Industry Index	5,890.43	5,849.59	5,856.34	5,856.46	-0.12	0.00
Services Index	1,846.53	1,835.23	1,841.10	1,833.63	7.48	0.41
MSX Shariah Index	453.78	451.13	451.13	452.77	-1.65	-0.36
MSX TRI INDEX	6,660.47	6,609.08	6,614.73	6,615.54	-0.81	-0.01
FINANCIAL TRI IDX	8,823.21	8,735.43	8,743.13	8,757.81	-14.69	-0.17
SERVICES TRI IDX	2,133.63	2,120.58	2,127.36	2,118.72	8.64	0.41
INDUSTRIAL TRI IDX	6,796.16	6,749.04	6,756.83	6,743.03	13.80	0.20
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,027.46	1,027.46	1,027.46	1,027.46	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
13,555,790	2,364,456	943	24,327,324,796	17	16	14	47

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDN VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	1,816	1,972	3	1.086	1.086	1.086	1.086	1.020	0.066	6.471	1.086	0.950	1.086	0.100 ... 74,934,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	2,798,598	385,953	102	0.138	0.138	0.137	0.138	0.135	0.003	2.222	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.100 ... 769,659,985
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	72,500	5,278	7	0.072	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.072	0.001	1.389	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.100 ... 14,600,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	22,690	8,736	4	0.385	0.386	0.385	0.386	0.381	0.005	1.312	0.386	0.385	0.386	0.100 ... 91,254,260
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	459,192	121,098	26	0.262	0.264	0.262	0.264	0.262	0.002	0.763	0.264	0.262	0.288	0.100 ... 1,981,688,824
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	11,241	11,817	9	1.054	1.054	1.050	1.050	1.045	0.005	0.478	1.050	1.046	1.049	0.100 ... 787,500,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	36,540	10,937	10	0.300	0.300	0.299	0.300	0.299	0.001	0.334	0.300	0.295	0.308	0.100 ... 195,283,289
OM0000000152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	26,853	2,139	4	0.115	0.117	0.115	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.100 ... 17,550,000
OM0000000183	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	221,263	56,708	7	0.256	0.257	0.256	0.257	0.257	0.000	0.000	0.257	0.257	0.265	0.100 ... 417,869,213
OM00000001749	OMAN CEMENT	10,000	3,700	1	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.000	0.000	0.370	0.360	0.370	0.100 ... 122,422,903
OM00000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	55,000	10,010	5	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.000	0.000	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.100 ... 40,400,000
OM00000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	84,484	6,846	7	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.081	0.082	-0.001	-1.220	0.081	0.081	0.085	0.100 ... 14,175,000
OM00000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	54,186	16,315	11	0.305	0.305	0.300	0.301	0.306	-0.005	-1.634	0.301	0.301	0.301	0.100 ... 37,594,286
OM00000002374	UNITED FINANCE	127,326	7,640	5	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.061	-0.001	-1.639	0.060	0.060	0.063	0.100 ... 21,367,638
OM00000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	34,542	5,773	15	0.170	0.170	0.165	0.165	0.170	-0.005	-2.941	0.165	0.165	0.180	0.100 ... 9,075,000
OM00000001533	OMINVEST	36,683	13,798	9	0.384	0.384	0.371	0.371	0.408	-0.037	-9.669	0.371	0.375	0.379	0.100 ... 247,965,573
Total	16	4,052,894	669,710	225											
Parallel Market															
OM00000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	2,383	498	1	0.209	0.209	0.209	0.209	0.190	0.019	10.000	0.209	0.198	0.209	0.100 ... 6,779,095
OM00000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	865,561	61,318	71	0.072	0.073	0.070	0.070	0.068	0.002	2.941	0.070	0.072	0.072	0.100 ... 5,950,000
OM00000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	36,156	2,784	2	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.075	0.002	2.667	0.077	0.077	0.079	0.100 ... 11,977,381
OM00000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	120,770	44,943	12	0.370	0.381	0.370	0.381	0.372	0.009	2.419	0.381	0.355	0.380	0.100 ... 45,720,000
OM00000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	440,800	59,539	42	0.135	0.136	0.134	0.135	0.133	0.002	1.504	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.100 ... 27,000,000
OM00000003531	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	1,933,026	320,200	123	0.162	0.166	0.161	0.161	0.159	0.002	1.258	0.161	0.161	0.163	0.100 ... 32,690,818
OM00000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	761,584	109,040	132	0.143	0.144	0.142	0.144	0.143	0.001	0.699	0.144	0.143	0.155	0.100 ... 623,608,844
OM00000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	2,782	6,513	4	2.350	2.350	2.320	2.320	2.305	0.015	0.651	2.320	2.290	2.320	0.100 ... 208,104,000
OM00000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	171,850	8,774	10	0.052	0.052	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.051	0.053	0.100 ... 15,664,463
OM00000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	4,605	414	2	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.086	0.095	0.100 ... 1,890,000
OM00000002200	AHLI BANK	22,000	3,520	1	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.160	0.165	0.100 ... 375,945,195
OM00000004420	BANK NIZWA	32,000	3,168	2	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.089	0.100	0.100 ... 221,458,350
OM00000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	70,544	5,291	2	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.079	0.100 ... 36,812,729
OM00000009710	BARKA DESALINATION	20,500	2,667	5	0.130	0.131	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.100 ... 3,917,960
OM00000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	4,433	422	3	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	-1.042	0.086	0.090	0.096	0.100 ... 19,000,000
OM00000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	161,434	14,283	8	0.090	0.090	0.088	0.088	0.089	-0.001	-1.124	0.088	0.088	0.089	0.100 ... 18,128,000
OM00000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	188,000	14,944	18	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.079	0.080	-0.001	-1.250	0.079	0.079	0.085	0.100 ... 56,438,011
OM00000004925	ALBATAINAH POWER	595,785	45,885	29	0.077	0.078	0.077	0.077	0.078	-0.001	-1.282	0.077	0.077	0.078	0.100 ... 51,968,332
OM00000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,996,533	599,425	120	0.304	0.304	0.299	0.300	0.304	-0.004	-1.316	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.100 ... 331,060,000
OM00000005963	PHOENIX POWER	410,211	24,989	23	0.061	0.061	0.060	0.060	0.061	-0.001	-1.639	0.060	0.060	0.065	0.100 ... 87,756,088
OM00000007407	DHOFAIR GENERATING	223,263	17,568	11	0.079	0.081	0.078	0.078	0.080	-0.002	-2.500	0.078	0.078	0.081	0.100 ... 17,334,720
OM00000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	20,000	2,080	2	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.109	-0.005	-4.587	0.104	0.104	0.110	0.100 ... 28,193,412
OM00000001160	NATIONAL GAS	152,886	12,398	19	0.082	0.083	0.080	0.080	0.085	-0.005	-5.882	0.080	0.080	0.083	0.100 ... 6,800,000
OM00000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	477,010	141,425	40	0.299	0.300	0.280	0.286	0.304	-0.018	-5.921	0.286	0.286	0.286	0.100 ... 45,760,000
Total	24	8,734,116	1,502,090	682											

FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

FSA suspends licence of Trust Funds Management for 3 months

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) has issued administrative decision No. 4/2024 suspending the license of Trust Funds Management Company (SPC) for three months to adjust its situation in line with the legal requirement pursuant to Article 58/g of

the Securities Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 46/2022 which allow the FSA to temporarily suspend the license until the violation is remedied during the specified period.

The decision was made due to the company's violation of Articles 147/4 and 168 of the Executive Regulation of the Capital Market

Law issued by decision No. 1/2009 which stipulates that all required reports must be prepared and filed on time as per the prescribed form.

The company also violated the provisions of Articles 120 and 122 of the Regulation for Real Estate Investment Funds issued by Decision No. 2/2018 which obligate the investment manager to ensure

that the properties to be acquired by the fund must meet specific terms and conditions, however, the company failed to comply with these articles.

Hence, FSA urges all regulated entities to comply with the applicable laws and regulations to avoid any financial or administrative penalties.

OMAN'S FIRST LARGE LANGUAGE MODEL PIONEERING IN SPEED AND PRIVACY

AIx (Artificial Intelligence Expandable LLC - a Subsidiary of Emaar Groups, Oman) introduces groundbreaking AI technology with AIx-GPT



MUSCAT: Today marks a significant milestone in the field of artificial intelligence as we proudly announce our AIx GPT, the first large language model developed by AIx (subsidiary of Emaar Groups, Oman). This revolutionary model represents a leap forward in AI technology, leveraging cutting-edge LPU architecture and our own optimized quantization techniques. AIx-GPT is designed to deliver responses 10 times faster than current models, redefining the speed at which AI can assist in decision-making and problem-solving.

Mohammed Al Junaibi, Chairman of Emaar Group of Companies, Oman, commented on this significant achievement, emphasizing the potential of AI Solution such as AIx GPT to be a catalyst in Oman's digital transformation and economic growth. He expressed confidence that this technology would enhance efficiency across various sectors, contributing to the nation's prosperity.

Key features of AIx GPT

- Enhanced Token Limit: Our model is fine-tuned to generate responses with a more extensive token limit, enabling more comprehensive and detailed answers.
- Optimized for Speed: Leveraging state-of-the-art LPU architecture, AIx GPT promises a 10x increase in inference speed, pro-



LIFESTYLE

EXPERTS DEVELOPING
IMMUNE-ENHANCING
THERAPIES

The reported global number of people newly diagnosed with TB was 7.5 million in 2022, causing an estimated 1.3 million deaths. An estimated 410 000 cases and 160 000 deaths were due to multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB)

EXPERTS ARE DEVELOPING revolutionary immune-enhancing medicines known as host-directed therapies, which employ the body's immune system to target TB, to tackle even drug-resistant strains of the illness.

Associate Professor Susanna Brighenti, Centre for Infectious Medicine (CIM), ANA Futura at the Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, will give a presentation at this year's ESCMID Global Congress (formerly ECCMID) in Barcelona.

The reported global number of people newly diagnosed with TB was 7.5 million in 2022, causing an estimated 1.3 million deaths. An estimated 410 000 cases and 160 000 deaths were due to multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB).

"Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) have evolved a remarkable ability to manipulate the human immune response and undermine antimicrobial effector functions in host

immune cells," explains Assoc Professor Brighenti. "While some new antimicrobial therapies are coming through, treatment with antibiotics remains an intensive and long process even for drug-susceptible forms of the disease. Importantly, mutations conferring antibiotic resistance are intrinsic properties of mycobacteria that effectively develop resistance to old as well as new groups of antibiotics, accentuating the need for adjunct treatments. Thus, new treatments are going to be absolutely vital in the battle against TB."

Host-directed therapies (HDT) aim to strengthen the body's immune responses and represent an underexplored opportunity to improve treatment of TB, particularly MDR-TB. HDT are designed to target several immune pathways in infected cells to restore or induce antimicrobial functions instead of inhibiting bacterial growth directly. This may involve enhanced production of immune peptides or toxic molecules that contribute to bacterial killing, but it could also include rebalancing of inflammatory responses. Associate Professor Brighenti will explain how her research collaboration has generated a platform for immune reconstitution in TB, using small molecule compounds including histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitors.

"These drugs can regulate transcription of genes in cells such as those in the immune system, and thus enhance the expression of proteins associated with the antibacterial host defence. We have identified

several HDAC inhibitors that reduce Mtb growth inside immune cells by some 50-75%, even in the absence of antibiotics," she explains. "That may not sound so impressive, but these immunomodulatory compounds could work well as a complement to standard therapy and exert additive or synergistic effects together with the antibiotics. This would provide the possibility to reduce the dose and treatment length required with antibiotics to improve patient outcomes."

In this way, it is conceivable that the effect of existing antibiotics could be guarded by add-on therapies that restore protective immunity and limit excess inflammation and/or immunosuppression in patients with TB. Standard anti-TB treatment involves daily administration of 4-9 antibiotics, but instead of adding yet another antimicrobial drug to the regimen, an immune-enhancing compound could promote clinical recovery of patients with severe forms of TB and poor prognosis, especially MDR-TB.

Assoc Prof Brighenti says "Implementation of immunotherapy as a complement to standard therapy has revolutionised the treatment of cancer, autoimmunity, and asthma/allergy. Similarly, our research on immune enhancement as a complement to antibiotics may become a game-changing treatment option for patients with TB that has the potential to impact clinical management and prevent spread of TB infections and drug resistance in this pivotal moment in our history when anti-

crobial resistance constitutes a serious threat to human health."

She adds, "Short-term, approved and already available 'off-the-shelf' therapeutics would represent an initial logical step to implement HDTs of patients with TB. This could include for example, HDTs based on glucocorticoid treatment or cytokine neutralisation (eg. anti-IL-6, anti-Ib) to reduce inflammation, while metformin, or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs may also promote or rewire the immune response."

"Long-term, more precise immunomodulatory interventions in TB such as local administration of specific HDAC inhibitors, can be tested in clinical trials with the aim to customise therapy for patients with MDR-TB. Today, several HDAC inhibitors are FDA-approved for different diseases - for example, Vorinostat, Belinostat, and Panobinostat for different cancers, Phenylbutyrate for urea cycle disorders and Givinostat for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, while the ones we have found to be most effective to reduce intracellular M. tuberculosis growth needs to be first tested in pre-clinical models for toxicity and efficacy before progressing to clinical trials."

Importantly, like many other diseases, TB can be divided into different sub-groups and using a one-fits-all approach to treatment is not necessarily best. Tailored treatments that are optimised to individual patient needs, so called personalised medicine, will also be part of the future for TB management. - **ANI**

SPORTS

All to play for at the Bernabeu

Vinicius Junior's brace helps Real Madrid draw with Bayern Munich in first leg of Champions League semi-final

MUNICH: Vinicius Junior scored twice as Real Madrid came away with a 2-2 draw in the first leg of their Champions League semi-final tie with Bayern Munich on Tuesday. The Brazilian took advantage of two errors from Bayern defender Kim Min-jae - beating him for pace and slotting a shot past goalkeeper Manuel Neuer for the opener, before the South Korean fouled Rodrygo in the box and Vinicius put away the resulting penalty. England captain Harry Kane had netted a penalty of his own, beating goalkeeper Andriy Lunin early in the second half after Jamal Musiala was tripped by Lucas Vazquez in the box. Minutes before, team-mate



Leroy Sane had struck a thunderous effort inside the near post, cancelling out Vinicius' opener. Control of the game switched hands as Bayern had failed to take advantage of their early dominance before Vinicius was played in behind by a clever Toni Kroos through ball. Having had six shots and over 60% possession in the first 20 minutes - the best of the chances falling to Sane and Kane - Bayern were behind against the run of play. But a ruthless four-minute period in the second half turned the game around and the German giants regained their momentum. They put Real under pressure and were perhaps unfortunate not to have extended their lead. Kim's mistake - a needless tug



on Rodrygo's shirt in the 83rd minute - allowed Real back into the game and they return to the Bernabeu Stadium with home advantage in next Wednesday's second leg. With defending champions Manchester City knocked out by Real in the quarter-finals, both of these teams will feel they can win the competition. Pressure has built for Bayern after Bayer Leverkusen halted their run of 11 consecutive Bundesliga titles and it has already been announced that manager Tuchel will be leaving this summer. Amid fresh reports of his potential successor, Tuchel's side started on top, controlling possession at the Allianz Arena and creating plenty of chances. Sane was denied by goalkeeper Lunin, while Kane's lob from the halfway line landed dangerously on the roof of the net. However, Real showed their quality in one quick and devastating move for the opener - the pass from Kroos weighted to perfection and Vinicius' composure did not waver as he scored in his third successive Champions League semi-final tie. Tuchel's side bounced back in the second half and again it was Kane and Sane who threatened, while Musiala tormented Vazquez with tricks and speed down the left-hand side. Chances came and went for both teams - Kroos and Vinicius forced strong saves out of Manuel Neuer and England defender Eric Dier missed headed opportunities from set-pieces. Kane now holds the record of most goal involvements by an English player in a single Champions League season (eight goals, three assists) and had a shot deflected just wide in the second half. Bayern created enough to add to their tally but it was Vinicius who had the final say from the penalty spot, ensuring this tie remains in the balance. The first leg leaves the tie finely balanced for the return on Wednesday at the Bernabeu to decide who goes to the final on June 1 at Wembley. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Atletico punished for racist abuse of Williams



MADRID: Atletico Madrid have been given a partial stadium closure order after supporters racially abused Athletic Bilbao player Nico Williams on Saturday. Williams asked the referee to stop the La Liga match midway through the first half at the Wanda Metropolitano stadium after hearing "monkey sounds" from the stands. The game was briefly paused and an announcement made over the tannoy but supporters continued to jeer Williams. The Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) has fined Atletico 20,000 euros (£17,000) and said the club's south stand must remain closed for two matches. After the abuse, Williams scored and ran in front of the south stand while gesturing towards his arm, which was viewed as a reference to his skin colour. Atletico Madrid won the match 3-1. - Agencies

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP



Smith left out of Australia's team

SYDNEY: Former captain Steve Smith was on Wednesday left out of Australia's squad for June's T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and USA. The 34-year-old's exclusion comes after a poor run of form against New Zealand in February, when he made scores of 11 and four. Promising batter Jake Fraser-McGurk has also been omitted, all-rounder Mitchell Marsh will captain the side and veteran opening batter David Warner has been selected for what could be his final international tournament. "Ultimately the balance of the final 15 needs to provide the best chance of being successful in this campaign," said selection chief George Bailey. Bailey added there had been "long conversations" about whether to include Smith in the side and said he would be keeping a close eye on Fraser-McGurk, 22, who has been in fine form for the Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League. Test captain Pat Cummins, fast bowler Mitchell Starc and all-rounder Glenn Maxwell are among the experienced players in the 15-man squad, with 11 having taken part in Australia's 2021 T20 World Cup-winning campaign. Marsh said he was thrilled to lead the side to a World Cup. "It's been an immense privilege to play for my country and now an even greater honour to lead the squad to a World Cup," Marsh said. **Squad:** Mitchell Marsh (capt), Ashton Agar, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis (wk), Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade (wk), David Warner, Adam Zampa. - Agencies

IPL 2024

Stoinis blitz helps LSG beat MI, climb to third

LUCKNOW: Marcus Stoinis once again emerged as the hero of Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) win as they beat Mumbai Indians (MI) by four wickets at the Ekana Cricket Stadium on Tuesday in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. This marked LSG's sixth win at home and helped them move to the third spot with 12 points in 10 matches. MI stayed at the ninth spot with six points in 12 matches. LSG struggled in the opening and suffered a middle order collapse, but Stoinis played an influential knock, which ensured that the hosts walked out victorious. While chasing 145, Arshin Kulkarni got dismissed for a golden duck in his IPL debut in the opening over. Nuwan Thushara scythed his wicket, which marked his maiden wicket in the cash-rich league. Jasprit Bumrah was kept silent in the powerplay as skipper KL Rahul and Marcus Stoinis tried to help the team recover from the early blow. They stitched a 58-run stand, which helped them cover the important part of the 145-run chase. Rahul looked rock solid in his 28-run knock before his counterpart Hardik Panday dismissed him. Stoinis (62) continued to lead the charge with the bat from one end before Mohammad Nabi relied on his experience to end Australia's stay on the crease. LSG lost Ashton Turner and Ashton Turner in quick succession, but Nicholas Pooran stayed till the end to clinch the victory for the hosts. Earlier in the innings, for LSG, Mohsin Khan bagged two wickets, while Marcus Stoinis, Naveen-ul-Haq, Mayank Yadav, and Ravi Bishnoi scalped one each. Wadhwa scored a gritty 46, Ishan Kishan played a crucial knock of 32, and Tim David cracked a blistering 35 runs in 18 balls to power Mumbai to a competitive total. MI captain Hardik Pandya



TODAY'S MATCH
Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Rajasthan Royals
Hyderabad, 6pm

was fined INR 24 lac as his team maintained a slow over rate for the second time during IPL 2024. The rest of the members of the playing XI, including the Impact Player, were each fined INR 6 lac or 25% of their respective match fees, whichever is lesser. A third such offence will result in Hardik being banned for one match. **Brief scores:** Mumbai Indians 144/7 (Nehal Wadhwa 46, Tim David 35*; Mohsin Khan 2-36) lost to Lucknow Super Giants 145/6 in 19.2 overs (Marcus Stoinis 62, KL Rahul 28; Hardik Pandya 2-26). - Agencies

TENNIS

Nadal falls to Lehecka in Madrid Open match final

MADRID: Rafael Nadal says it has been a "very emotional" week after he made his last-ever appearance at the Madrid Open on Tuesday. The former world No.1, a five time champion in the Spanish capital, waved an emotional farewell to the tournament after losing in straight sets to Czech Republic's Jiri Lehecka. The 37-year-old has indicated he plans to retire after the 2024 season. "I'm happy," Nadal said after the 7-5, 6-4 defeat. "It was a very special week for me, very positive and very emotional. I had the opportunity to play one more time here on this court. "All I can say is thank you to everyone that has helped me in my career. It hasn't finished yet." Despite losing, Nadal's previous success at the tournament was celebrated with a video tribute and he was awarded a commemorative trophy. "This was a joke, because I'll be



back next year," said Nadal, with his family watching on from the stands. He added: "It has been a gift what you've given me here. "The emotion that I get from this experience in Madrid, from the Spanish public... I was lucky as a kid to do the job that I love. I feel super fortunate to have lived the life that I've lived. I couldn't ask for anything more." Lehecka will face Russian third seed Daniil Medvedev, who defeated Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik 7-6 (7-3), 6-4. **Alcaraz survives scare** Elsewhere on Tuesday, defending champion Carlos Alcaraz survived a scare against Jan-Lennard Struff to reach the last-eight. In a repeat of last year's final, Spain's Alcaraz was forced to a



deciding set tie-break by the German 23rd seed, after missing out on four match points at 5-3. But the world No.3 prevailed in front of a home crowd to wrap up a 6-3, 6-7 (5-7), 7-6 (7-4) win after almost three hours. The 20-year-old will face Russian seventh seed Andrey Rublev, who beat Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor 6-2, 6-4 earlier on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Italian top seed Jannik Sinner remains on course for his fourth title of 2024 after beating Karen Khachanov 5-, 6-3, 6-3. The Australian Open set up a last-eight meeting with Canada's Auger-Aliassime who claimed a surprise win over Norway's in-form Casper Ruud. German fourth seed Alexander Zverev, the 2021 champion, fell to a 6-3, 6-4 defeat by Francisco Cerundolo. The Argentine 11th seed will play America's Taylor Fritz in the quarter-finals after the 12th seed saw off Hubert Hurkacz of Poland in straight sets. **Jabeur stunned by Keys** Madison Keys produced a stunning comeback against eighth seed Ons Jabeur of Tunisia to reach the semi-finals of the Madrid Open. The American 18th seed looked rattled as Jabeur wrapped up a first-set 6-0 bagel in just 24 minutes. But the Tunisian's composure crumbled as Keys clinched the second set before dominating the decider to triumph 0-6, 7-5, 6-1. She will face world No.1 Iga Swiatek in the last four. Top seed Swiatek, 22, of Poland fought back from a set down against Beatriz Haddad Maia of Brazil to win 4-6, 6-0, 6-2 and book her place in the semi-finals. It was the first time the world No.1 dropped a set in the tournament. - Agencies

IN PICTURES



City view of Belgrade, Serbia
This picture shows a view of the Sava river in Belgrade, Serbia. Serbia, a nation located in the Balkan Peninsula, is traversed by many rivers like the Danube, the Sava, the Morava and the Tisa. Its capital Belgrade lies at the confluence of the Danube and the Sava. Xinhua



2024 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship
China's Guo Jianing (bottom, centre) competes during the match between China and Ukraine at the 2024 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division I-B in Vilnius, Lithuania. Xinhua



Auto show kicks off in Xi'an, NW China's Shaanxi
People visit an auto show in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province. The six-day auto show kicked off at Xi'an International Convention and Exhibition Centre. Xinhua



Jaideep Ahlawat, Sonali Bendre, Shriya Pilgaonkar and others during the special screening of 'The Broken News'
Bollywood actor Jaideep Ahlawat, actresses Sonali Bendre, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Suchitra Pillai, Geetika Vidya Ohlyan and others pose for a picture during the special screening of the upcoming second season of the OTT series 'The Broken News', in Mumbai. ANI Photo



Labour Day marked in Vladivostok, Russia
A girl learns to make paper cutting at a Labour Day celebration activity in Vladivostok, Russia. Xinhua



Solar PV plant in Samarkand, Uzbekistan
This picture shows the solar PV plant built by China's Dongfang Electric Corporation in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Xinhua



Highlight of Volga Fashion Week in Moscow, Russia
A model with disability presents a creation by Anika Kerimova during the Volga Fashion Week in Moscow, Russia. Xinhua

ROUND-UP

OETC celebrates World Day for Safety and Health at Work

The event included various awareness and interactive workshops, accompanied by an exhibition featuring participation from numerous contractors and specialists in the field of occupational health and safety

MUSCAT: In line with the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, which falls on 28 April each year as designated by the International Labor Organization, aiming to focus on the safety, health, and well-being of the work environment and employees, the Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC) organised a two-day event on April 28 and 29. The event included various awareness and interactive workshops, accompanied by an exhibition featuring participation from numerous contractors and specialists in the field of occupational health and safety. The exhibition aimed to raise awareness and knowledge about the important and best practices in this regard and to introduce preventive measures to avoid potential risks during work operations. Additionally, the exhibition showcased the OETC's significant initiatives and projects in the field of occupational health and safety, along with the achievements made in this area. The event also included a celebration to honour those who have excelled



in quality, health, safety, security, and environmental fields, as an acknowledgement of the efforts made by employees, contractors, and all stakeholders committed to enhancing the QHSSE's performance. This year's World Day for Safety and Health at Work focuses on "The Impact of Climate Change on Occupational Safety and Health," aligning with a global effort to mitigate the effects and changes caused by industrial sectors, pollutants, and other factors resulting in climate change. These impacts directly affect the work environment, workers, and their health, encom-

passing risks such as heat stress, exposure to ultraviolet radiation, air pollution, major industrial accidents, and weather phenomena. Considering the initiatives and activities carried out by OETC to promote safety and health in the work environment, Fahad Nasser Al-Kiyumi, Acting General Manager of the Quality, Health, Safety, Security and Environment Department, emphasized the company's commitment, along with specialized teams, to adhere to the highest internationally recognized standards to improve the work environment, ensure employees'

safety, and smooth operation processes. This commitment includes the development of various systems, regulations, policies, and necessary procedures, as well as conducting continuous audit campaigns and follow-ups to ensure everyone's compliance and implementation of these systems. Al-Kiyumi added, "Specialised teams are keen on conducting field visits, inspection and monitoring campaigns to ensure full compliance with international standards in this regard. This is evident through our achievement of accreditation and obtaining

the ISO's Integrated Management System (IMS) certification for six integrated systems, including the occupational health and safety system, in which we recently successfully completed the second phase of external auditing. Furthermore, these plans and strategies have positively contributed to not registering any fatal or time-wasting injuries for over 1,465 working days and have resulted in recording over 48.1 million safe working hours since the last work-related injury, according to statistics as of March 2024". It is worth mentioning that

OETC, a member of the Nama Group, is the only company responsible for the transmission and control of electricity across the Sultanate's network. The electricity is transmitted from production stations to distributed load centres in the governorates. The transmission network operates at a voltage of 132kV and above to cover most of the governorates in the Sultanate, whether in the north or the south. Furthermore, OETC manages the interconnection lines between Oman and the GCC interconnection network, which operates at a voltage of 220kV.

SIGNIFICANT

Alizz Islamic Bank joins AAOIFI annual Sharia boards conference in the Kingdom of Bahrain

MUSCAT: A delegation lead by the CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank, Ali Al Mani members of the Sharia Supervisory Board of the bank as well as the Sharia Compliance and Audit Department participated in the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) conference held in the Kingdom of Bahrain. As part of Alizz Islamic Bank's 'Empowering the Second Line of Sharia Supervisory Board Members' Programme to nurture potential candidates for future roles, the two interns from the Office of the Grand Mufti of the Sultanate of Oman were part of the delegation in attending the conference. The annual AAOIFI conference is of vital significance within the Islamic financial industry. It serves as a platform to address crucial issues and developments pertaining to the industry. The conference aims to enhance the state of the global Islamic financial industry, foster innovative opportunities, and facilitate its expansion worldwide. It also focuses on preserving the industry's authenticity and adherence to Sharia principles. The event featured over 35 speakers, including Sharia scholars, policymakers, and professionals in the field of global



Islamic banking and finance, engaging in detailed discussions on a wide range of recent important topics. Issa bin Salim Al Riyami, Head of the Sharia Compliance & Audit Department said, "Conferences of this nature hold significant value in sharing knowledge of international Islamic financial practices and re-

porting of financial institutions. They also provide essential guidance for the best practice of Islamic financial industry and markets. These conferences also play a crucial role in bridging expertise from around the world to set the right standards for Islamic financial institutions, innovative solutions and most importantly focuses on sus-

tainable growth of the industry." AAOIFI, is an influential international non-profit organisation that plays a crucial role in supporting Islamic financial institutions. Established in 1991 and headquartered in the Kingdom of Bahrain, it has achieved notable professional milestones including issuing over 100 standards in the fields of Is-

lamic accounting, auditing, work ethics, and governance. These standards include Shari'a standards that have been adopted by central banks and financial authorities in several countries as mandatory or recommended guidelines. The authority has support from various member institutions, in-

cluding central banks, regulatory bodies, financial institutions, accounting and auditing firms, and legal offices from over 45 countries. Currently, AAOIFI's standards are implemented by most leading Islamic financial institutions worldwide, contributing to a higher level of consistency in Islamic financial practices worldwide.

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- Number of Motors: 1
- Number of Grease Filters: 3
- No. of Power Levels: 3
- Type Of Grease Filters: Metal - Cassette
- Dishwasher Safe Filters
- Charcoal Filter: Optional
- H x W x D: 48.0 x 90.0 x 27.0 cm



CWB6441XN

60cm Wall Mounted Pyramid Cooker Hood

- Number of Motors: 1
- Number of Grease Filters: 2
- No. of Power Levels: 3
- Dishwasher Safe Filters
- Charcoal Filter
- H x W x D: 74.0 x 59.8 x 49.0 cm



CFB9433XH

90 cm Standard Hood

- Number of Motors: 3
- Number of Grease Filters: 3
- No. of Power Levels: 3 ● Dishwasher Safe Filters
- Charcoal Filter ● H x W x D: 15.0 x 90.0 x 49.0cm



HIAW64225SXL

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- 60 cm Gas Hob with 3 Gas + 1 Wok
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- H x W x D: 4,6 x 58 x 51 cm



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BBIE14100XC

60 cm Multifunctional Oven with 6 Cooking Functions

- Mechanical Timer ● Fan Assisted Cooking ● 6 functions
- Electric Grill ● H x W x D: 59.5 x 59.4 x 56.7 cm



BBWMT13300BS

90 cm Multifunctional Oven with 8 Cooking Functions

- Integrated ignition ● Cooling Fan ● Triple glass door ● 8 functions
- Electric Grill ● H x W x D: 59.5 x 89.6 x 56.5



BIGT22100XML

60 cm Gas Oven with Gas Grill Function

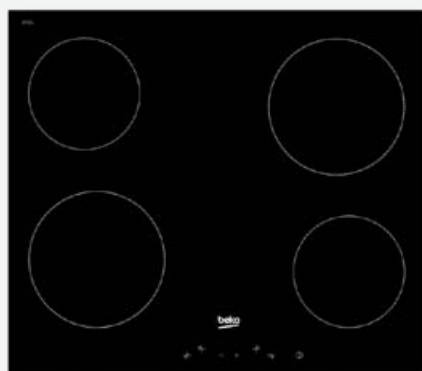
- Mechanical Timer ● Gas Grill (Closed Door) ● Interior lighting
- H x W x D: 59.5 x 59.4 x 56.7 cm



BBIM14300XD

60 cm Multifunctional Oven with 8 Cooking Functions

- Touchcontrol LED Display ● Multifunctional Cooking
- 8 functions ● 3D Cooking ● Electric Grill
- H x W x D: 59.5 x 59.4 x 56.7 cm



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BBWHT12101XS

90 cm Gas Oven with Gas Grill Function

- Mechanical Timer ● Integrated ignition ● Cooling Fan
- Triple glass door ● Oven Type: Gas Cooking - Fan Assisted
- Gas Grill ● H x W x D: 59.5 x 89.6 x 56.5

*Source Euromonitor International Limited; Large Appliances as per "Major Appliances" in Consumer Appliances 2022ed, retail volume, 2021 data.



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'Hhalas', 'Hhunaizi' and 'Fargh' are varieties of which fruit associated with Omani heritage?

Two violins, one viola, and one cello make up a "String _____"

What is the name given to Taylor Swift's fanbase?

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