

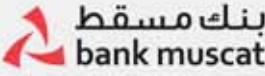


HM THE SULTAN GREETES KING OF KSA
MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to King Salman. His Majesty also prayed to the Almighty Allah for the return of this and similar occasions on King Salman at a time the people of Saudi Arabia realise aspirations of further progress and prosperity. — **ONA**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
New ROHM season

1 The ROHM will launch its 2024/25 season with a remarkable series of performances this October. **>A5**

OMAN
2.3 million visit Oman

2 The number of visitors to the Sultanate of Oman till the end of July 2024 reached 2.3 million. **>A5**

SPORTS
India beat Bangladesh

3 Indian spinners Ashwin and Jadeja took India to a comfortable victory of 280 runs over Bangladesh. **>A8**

LARGEST OFFERING
OQEP offers 2bn shares for public subscription

MUSCAT: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) has approved the prospectus of OQ Exploration and Production Company (OQEP), which is undergoing transition into a public joint stock company.

Towards this end, the company offers not less than two billion shares, accounting for 25 percent of the company's capital, through public subscription. Given the size and market value of the company, the step constitutes the largest offering in the history of the Omani capital market

OQ Exploration and Production Company is an affiliate of Oman Investment Authority (OIA). The offering of shares for subscription embodies OIA's drive to divest from some gov-



ernment assets. It constitutes a step forward in meeting the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, which is aimed at attracting national and foreign investments. The offering also leads to the diversification and expansion of the shareholder base. **>A5**

DIGITAL DRIVE GATHERS PAGE

This ambitious initiative aims to revolutionise key sectors of the economy through cutting-edge technology

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a decisive step towards establishing itself as a leader in the digital age, Oman has launched the 'National Programme for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Advanced Digital Technologies'. This ambitious initiative, part of the country's broader Vision 2040 strategy, aims to revolutionise key sectors of the economy through cutting-edge technology, positioning the Sultanate at the forefront of the global digital landscape. Designed to span from 2024



to 2026, the programme sets the stage for Oman's digital future with a focus on AI innovation and adoption.

By embracing the transformative potential of AI, Oman hopes to unlock new economic opportunities, stimulate entrepreneurship, and elevate its position in the international tech ecosystem.

At the heart of the initiative is the creation of a 'National Platform for Open Data', designed to empower entrepreneurs, investors, and decision-makers with access to vital information.

This platform will provide the resources needed for informed decision-making and foster a vibrant tech-driven economy. **>A2**



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INTEGRATED VISION

Oman, KSA to boost ties as Saudi marks 94th National Day

Times News Service

RIYADH: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) will celebrate on Monday its 94th National Day which falls on 23 September every year.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has several achievements consistent with an integrated vision led by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and Crown Prince of the KSA.

The Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continue to enhance relations in various fields based on their strong relationship for the interest of the two countries under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman



bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. The two countries are making efforts for development of the

mutual investments in modern technologies, innovation, energy, renewable energy and industrial



projects, manufacturing, health field, pharmaceutical and medicine industries, real estate devel-

opment, tourism and petrochemicals, supply chains, information technology and other economic

fields.

In its first meeting held in Muscat, the Omani Saudi Coordination Council reviewed the bilateral distinct relations between the two countries and stressed the significance of the continued support and development of the bilateral ties between the two countries.

The council also stressed joint approach towards the regional and international causes and issues of common concern.

The Oman-Saudi Business Council aimed among other goals to accelerate the pace of progress of the commercial and investment relations between the two countries coupled with boosting the commercial cooperation and upgrading the investment opportunities.

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Oman to develop a groundbreaking ‘Omani Language AI Model’

◀ FROM A1 Additionally, a ‘National Centre for Research and Development in Artificial Intelligence’ will serve as a hub for researchers and academics, enabling collaborative innovation and helping Oman emerge as a key player in AI research.

Recognising the value of its cultural heritage, Oman will also develop a groundbreaking ‘Omani Language AI Model’.

This generative AI system, deeply versed in the Sultanate’s rich cultural, historical, and artistic traditions, aims to preserve and promote Omani identity in the digital age.

Alongside this, the programme will introduce an ‘AI Studio’, offering a collaborative space where IT professionals, businesses, and institutions can come together to develop advanced technical solutions.

In partnership with the Ministry of Economy and the World Economic Forum, Oman will also establish a ‘Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)’, aimed at integrating AI and other emerging technologies into the broader economic framework.

This centre is expected to play a key role in localising advanced technologies and ensuring their effective application across various sectors.

Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma’awali,



Minister of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, described the initiative as an evolution of the ‘Executive Programme for Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technologies’, which was launched in 2022.

“We are laying solid foundations for the future,” Al Ma’awali said in an interview with Oman News Agency (ONA).

“The goal is to build a digital economy capable of driving sustainable development and posi-

tioning Oman as a global technology hub.”

One of the core objectives of the programme is to introduce AI applications across Oman’s economic and development sectors, ensuring good governance and improving Oman’s ranking on the international stage.

The government is focused on advancing the Sultanate’s position in the Government AI Readiness Index, aiming to place Oman among the top 50 nations globally.

In addition to improving governance and global competitiveness, the programme seeks to stimulate investment in AI technology companies.

This is expected to lead to the establishment of new AI-driven data centres and expand the country’s digital infrastructure. By 2040, the digital economy’s contribution to Oman’s GDP is projected to reach 10%, a significant increase from 2% in 2021.

Oman’s National AI Programme underscores the country’s commitment to embracing the future.

Through strategic investments in AI and advanced digital technologies, Oman is setting the stage for a digitally empowered, economically sustainable future that leverages the best of technology while preserving the essence of its cultural identity.

-With ONA inputs

POLITICAL TALKS

Oman and Mexico review bilateral ties



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the United Mexican States on Sunday held the 2nd political talks session in Muscat.

The Omani side was headed by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, while the Mexican side was headed by Maria Teresa Mercado, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry.

During the session, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and underscored their keenness to continue developing those relations. They also touched on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The session was attended by Anibal Gomez Toledo, Ambassador of the United Mexican States to the Sultanate of Oman and Dr. Hanan Ibrahim Al Shuhi, Head of the America Department at the Foreign Ministry. It was also attended by several officials from both sides. -ONA

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

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

PARTNERS:

ORGANIZED BY:

FOR MORE EVENT DETAILS, CONTACT

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Building sustainable business models

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Cultivating talent and leadership development

Integrating ESG principles in business planning

Expanding global market reach

Co-located: Times of Oman ‘Business Leadership Awards’

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

Key Award Categories

• Business Leader of the Year

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• Entrepreneur of the Year

• Global Omani of the Year

• Businesswoman of the Year

• SME of the Year

• Company of the Year

• Lifetime Achievement



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COMMENTARY

Omani women feel their office contributions are not valued



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

Most Omani women working in the country feel that their professional contributions in the workplaces are not appreciated and they think that men get more rewarded for doing much less.

They say, in a male dominated society, they are overlooked and at the same underrepresented. The statistics in the country prove they are right. There are very few women serving as senior managers in corporate companies. Actually, statistics show that only 12 percent of them are in the high-ranking management team compared to men who are occupying most of these positions.

Preciously few women work in the positions of Chief Executive Officers and even fewer in the roles of Board of Directors. Interesting enough, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) this week announced that it is compulsory for corporate companies to have at least one woman serving as a Board of Director.

Another interesting thing is that women are a slight majority making 53 percent of the total population of Omanis in the Sultanate. The population statisticians in the local hospitals also predict that in the next decade the gap between Omani



women and men will stretch even further. Why? Because there are more baby girls being born than boys in the last five years.

The second interesting statistics is on the business front. Almost all of the retailers I have been talking to across the country say that their businesses are widely supported by women. That means the ladies are the majority shoppers keeping going the economy of the retail sector afloat in these hard times. But it is not ending here. In higher education, female graduates outnumber male graduates by a whopping 30 percent, according to official statistics.

The vast majority of women work in the office backrooms, doing exactly what they have been doing for years. So why are women still being sidelined professionally when their contribution and track record support them? Can we really blame the local culture or tradition when men put a plug on women's career progress? I hear some men say that 'family comes first' and women need to be at home to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Professional women defend that they can juggle between the demands of careers and home management, including raising successful children. So tradition or culture does not interfere with women's progress at work. They always manage to walk on the delicate tight rope that separate careers and home. In the age of digital offices, many men are now given the opportunities to work remotely. So why doesn't it apply for women when they have to balance between families and careers?

In conclusion, to segregate women in workplaces is going against gender equality. It goes without saying that equal opportunities are important for the progress of any country. If women feel they are left out when it comes to career progression, then we are not using the full manpower resources available in the market. It is plain hypocrisy when one professional law applies for men and the other for women. Barriers erected by men must be removed that restrict women in offices to give our economy the chance it needs to make real progress.



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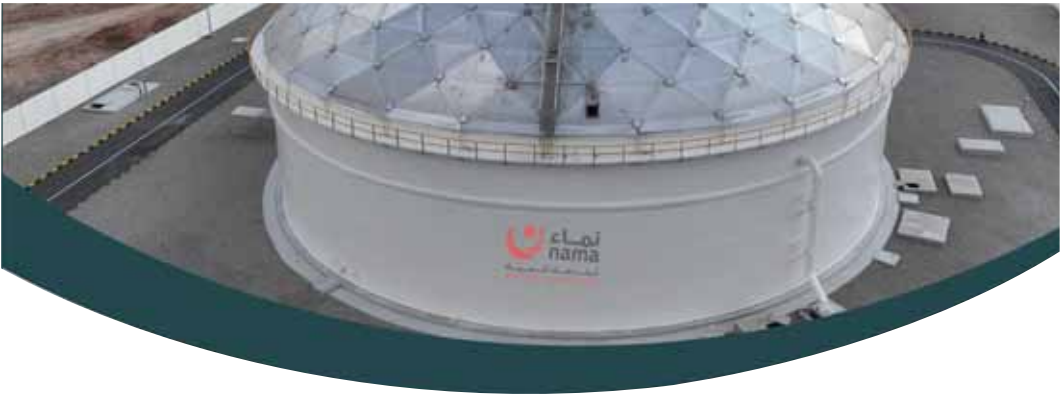
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TENDER NOTICE

Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) hereby announces the following Tenders: -

Tender No.	Description	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Sale Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
T/2643002/2024	Construction of Water Distribution Network for Hay Al-Sharuq - Wilayat BidBid	Small and Medium Enterprises (Riada Card Holder) registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	Free	3/10/2024	4/11/2024
T/2659031/2024	Consultancy Services for Design and Supervision for Sewer, TE Networks Systems and STP at Sur	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	1,500 /- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	3/10/2024	4/11/2024
T/2659039/2024	Consultancy Supervision Services for Construction of Phase 1 - Rehabilitation Works of Bausher (B1) Sewer Network	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	500 /- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	3/10/2024	4/11/2024
T/2659029/2024	Construction of Water Distribution Line for Ibri IPP	Small and Medium Enterprises (Riada Card Holder) registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	Free	3/10/2024	4/11/2024

- The tender documents can be obtained from the e-tendering page (Supplier Login) from this announcement date. The applicants shall pay the tender fee by logging into their (I-supplier Page).
- Applicants who are not registered shall register through the following link: <https://owwsc.nama.om/Business-with-Us/Vendor-Registration> in order to receive the login credentials of the 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 <https://nws.nama.om/en-us/Business-with-Us/Supplierlogin>). All participating companies shall submit a Bid Bond of 1% of the bid value in a sealed envelope. Bid Bonds must be obtained from a local Bank registered in the Sultanate of Oman addressed 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.
- 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](http://www.owwsc.nama.om) & in case of general queries you may contact us through the email ID of tender@owwsc.nama.om



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In what popular online word game do you have to guess the correct five-letter word in six tries? The answer, of course, was 'Wordle.'

Can you match wits with the participants?



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UN BALLO IN MASCHERA BY GIUSEPPE VERDI

ROHM to launch its 2024/25 season in October

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat is proud to launch its 2024/25 season with a remarkable series of performances this October. The season opens on 3 and 5 October with Un Ballo in Maschera by Giuseppe Verdi, performed for the first time in Oman by the National Centre of Performing Arts Beijing (NCPA).

This production features a stellar cast including Elena Stikhina, Piotr Beczala, Liao Changyong, Agnieszka Rehlis, and Enkelada Kamani under the direction of the acclaimed Hugo de Ana.

The Orchestra Teatro Lirico di Cagliari, conducted by Giampaolo Bisanti, will bring Verdi's powerful exploration of love, betrayal, and intrigue to life.

Audiences can also look forward to A Musical Night from China on 4 October, featuring soloists and the Choir of NCPA Beijing, directed by the world-renowned conductor Lü Jia.



This concert offers a unique programme of traditional Chinese music in classical form, beginning with a performance of Zhao Jiping's acclaimed Violin Concerto No.1 played by Mengla Huang.

Commenting on the season's premiere, Director General and Artistic Director at ROHM, Umberto Fanni, stated, "It is a pleasure to welcome the iconic production of Giuseppe Verdi's Un Ballo

in Maschera to Muscat for the first time, presented by the National Centre for the Performing Arts Beijing to open our 2024/25 season".

He also emphasised: "This promises to be a truly unforgettable evening, and one of the stand-out events of our season. The fruitful collaboration between the Royal Opera House Muscat and the NCPA Beijing highlights our common role as leading perform-



ing art institutions in bridging cultures through artistic expression."

Following this, many will have already secured their tickets for the highly anticipated Omani Women's Day performance on 17 October, featuring legendary singer Majida El Roumi, the inspirational Al Nour Wal Amal Ladies' Orchestra—the only orchestra in the world consisting of blind musicians playing classical and Arab

music—ROSO Ladies' Ensemble, and Moroccan pianist Nour Ayadi.

Famous songs

Lebanese singer Majida El Roumi will also remain in Muscat for two additional nights (18 and 19 October), with concerts showcasing her most famous songs, celebrated for their beautiful poetry on themes of love, humanity, and patriotism. October will culminate with a

performance by India's greatest classical musician, sitar virtuoso Nishat Khan, who will be accompanied by the European Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Walter Proost for an original concert featuring his sitar symphony Gate of the Moon on 30 and 31 October.

Complementing these performances, the Royal Opera House Muscat will also present a range of educational and outreach events, including the first Absolute Music show with world-famous soprano Joyce El Khouri, pianist Serouj Kradjian, and a Lebanese ensemble performing Scheherazade.

This concert will present two mirror worlds: the refined elegance of French songs by Maurice Ravel, set alongside Arabic songs inspired by the works of Arabic poets.

Both repertoires belong to the tradition of "songs of salon", where the delicate fusion of music and poetry creates a rich, intimate experience.

2.4% RISE

2.3 million people visit Oman by end of June 2024

MUSCAT: The number of visitors to the Sultanate of Oman till the end of July 2024 reached 2.3 million, constituting a rise by 2.4% compared to the corresponding period in 2023, according to the tourism indicators report issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

In July 2024 as many as 371,394 visitors arrived to the country, comprising a decline by 1.3% compared to 376,376 visitors during July 2023.

GCC visitors constituted 56 percent of the total number of visitors during July 2024 (208,485 visitors), followed by Asian visitors who reached 89,007. Arab visitors stood at 48,221, while the number of Europeans stood at 13,379.

Moreover, the number of visitors from other areas stood as follows: 6,092 from Africa, 5,271 from the two American continents and 939 from Oceania.



On the other hand, the revenues of 3-5 star hotels till the end of July 2024 reached RO 132.3 million, comprising a rise by 7.9% compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

Revenues of rooms went up by 8.3% to stand at OMR76.6 million,

while other revenues increased by 7.3% to stand at OMR55.7 million.

The number of guests at hotels till the end of July 2024 rose by 9.3% to stand at 1,204,426.

Occupancy rate reached 46.7% by the end of July 2024. -ONA

09

Opportunity to invest

<FROM A1 The offering will provide investors with an opportunity to invest in a major company specialised in oil and gas exploration and production in the Sultanate of Oman.

The offering will extend for two weeks starting from 30 September 2024. Subscription for the first segment will continue until 10 October 2024, while subscription for the second segment (individuals) will close on 9 October.

The prospectus shows that the number of shares offered for subscription is divided into three main categories. The first is the institutional category, the second is the individuals category and the third is the main investors category.

The first category may determine its own price range by building an order book (370 to 390 baisas per share).

The share price for Omani individuals will be calculated at a rate of 351 baisas per share by calculating the highest price of 390 baisas minus the 10 percent discount. It aims to encourage Omanis to participate in this type of issuance and enable them to utilise the available investment opportunities. For non-Omanis, the share price will be 390 baisas.

The prospectus indicates that the share of the first category (institutions) amounts to 40 percent of the total offering. It is divided equally between local institutions, as well as regional and international institutions. The minimum subscription for this category will be 100,000 shares.

The individuals' category will be allocated a 40 percent of the total offering. The minimum subscription for this category will be 500 shares and the maximum will be 28,500 shares. -ONA

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In accordance with the provisions of Article 142 of the Commercial Companies Law.

The company ALJAZEIRA SERVICES CO.SAOG, which is registered with the Commercial Registration No. 1561359, hereby announces that it is going to reduce its capital from Omani Rials 11,171,717.000 to 7,820,202.000.

Whoever has any objection to the foregoing shall present the reasons for such objection to the Secretariat of Commercial Registry at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry within 15 days from the date hereof.

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The tenders shall be submitted in original and complete with all relevant documents. Tenders not in compliance with tender's requirements shall not be considered.

Tender documents shall be submitted in sealed envelope with clearly mentioned Tender Number/Name & Company Name. The sealed envelope shall be submitted to Principal Office on or before the date mentioned and addressed to Indian School Salalah.

Interested parties shall send a non-refundable Tender fee of OMR 25/- at school fee counter (Main Building) and can collect the Tender document between 9 am to 3pm (Sunday to Thursday) from 23rd September 2024 to 01st October 2024.

Indian School Salalah reserves the right to accept or reject any Tender.

Last Date of Submission of Sealed Tender is 02-10-2024 on or before 3 PM

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION LAB

Tamkeen seeks to boost research and innovation

MUSCAT: Tamkeen, the Research and Innovation Lab on Sunday embarked on a programme to boost the central role of research and innovation in domestic development.

The programme, which will last until 3 October 2024, will focus on analysing the current performance of national research and innovation system. It also seeks to identify key challenges and proposing solutions to address them.

Tamkeen will act in partnership with all stakeholders to achieve integration and common goals.

The programme, which stems from the approaches of Oman Vision 2040, aspires to place the Sultanate of Oman among the top



twenty countries in the Global Innovation Index. The programme calls for efforts to achieve comprehensive and sustainable national

development through knowledge, research and innovation.

Economic, social development

Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, said in a speech that the research and innovation lab aim to set up a national system in Oman and consolidate its role in economic and social development.

The Global Innovation Index is an important source of information for decision-makers. It enables them to measure economic competitiveness in comparison with leading international models. -ONA

MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No.(28/2024)

Muscat Municipality invites interested companies to the following bidding :

Serial	Bidding No.	Bidding description	Document fee	Deadline for obtaining bidding docs.	Deadline for inquires submission	Deadline for submission
1	PRE-24-271	Organizing events for the Muscat Nights (2024/2025) Implementing, managing and operating of a Comic Con event.	25 Rials	06/10/2024	07/10/2024	13/10/2024
2	PRE-24-272	Organizing events for the Muscat Nights (2024/2025) Organizing and managing of equestrian event at Al Qurum Natural Park	25 Rials	06/10/2024	07/10/2024	13/10/2024
3	PRE-24-273	Organizing events for the Muscat Nights (2024/2025) Organizing and managing a variety events and activities for Muscat Nights	25 Rials	06/10/2024	07/10/2024	13/10/2024

Companies registered with Muscat Municipality and specialized in the above mentioned bidding field are invited to participate according to the following procedures:

- To get the bids documents, company's registration with Muscat Municipality must be valid.
- Document fee for the requested bid must be paid through bank deposit into the following Muscat Municipality's Bank account:

Bank Muscat	0423010702710024
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- To receive the bid's documents, a Copy of bank receipt must be submitted to the Quantity Surveying and Contracts Department at Muscat Municipality (Head office, first floor, Darsait), accompanied with the following details: (name and bid number, representative's name, contact number (mobile & office), bidder official email, commercial registration number).
- 10.00 A.M on the above mentioned dates, is the last timing for obtaining bid documents. Any bid's document request received after the specified time will not be considered.
- Bidders offers must be accompanied with a bond as mentioned in the bidding document valid for a period not less than (90) days, issued by any local bank in Oman addressed to Muscat Municipality. Bids that do not meet the required bond will not be accepted.
- Documents must be enclosed in a plain closed envelope (without mention the company identity) and placed in the box located at Quantity Surveying and Contracts Department at Muscat Municipality (Head Office, first floor, Darsait).

NOTES:

- Companies which are not registered in Muscat Municipality or their registration has been expired shall register through the Muscat Municipality's website (www.mm.gov.om). For technical support, please contact Muscat Municipality through this email (crm@mm.gov.om).
- If the bidders have any inquiries regarding the scope of the work, they have to sent their inquiries through the following e-mail (SQ.QS@mm.gov.om)
- 10:00 AM on the above submission mentioned dates, is the last timing for receiving bids. Offers submitted after the above mentioned date & time shall not be accepted for any reason.
- Muscat Municipality has the right to accept or reject any offer without assigning any reason.

Website: www.mm.gov.om

New project to develop tourist lodges in coastal and mountains launched

The workshop included the presentation of a number of papers on tourist lodges in the Sultanate of Oman and the importance of developing them as one of the pillars of tourism development

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With the participation of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the College of Tourism, the Musandam Lodge project was launched on Sunday to encourage people to invest in establishing and developing tourist lodges in coastal and mountain villages in line with international standards.

The project was launched during a workshop organised by the Oman College of Tourism in cooperation with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Musandam Branch, under the patronage of Sayyid Ibrahim bin Saeed Al Busaidi, Governor of Musandam.

The workshop included the presentation of a number of papers on tourist lodges in the Sultanate of Oman and the importance of developing them as one of the pillars of tourism development.

Dr. Hamad bin Mohammed Al Mahrazi, Dean of the Oman College of Tourism, gave a speech in which he stressed the importance of tourist lodges in developing the



tourism sector.

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism also presented a working paper on the laws and legislation regulating tourist lodges. Sultan

Qaboos University presented a working paper on the importance of tourist lodges in promoting sustainable tourism and preserving natural resources, in addition to presenting studies on the best international practices in this field.

Sayyid Ibrahim bin Saeed Al Busaidi, Governor of Musandam, said that the Musandam Lodge project seeks to achieve a set of objectives, including meeting the growing demand for tourist accommodation in the governorate and promoting local and international tourism by providing diverse accommodation options that meet the aspirations of tourists, and enhances Musandam's position as a major tourist

destination.

It will encourage residents and owners of small and medium enterprises in Musandam Governorate to invest in the tourism sector creating job opportunities for the region's residents in the hospitality and tourism sector.

He stressed the strategic role played by the project in achieving the governorate's vision to develop the tourism sector, which contributes to the development of the local economy.

He also called on investors from the governorate to exploit the available investment opportunities and benefit from the incentives provided to develop tourist lodge projects.

ELECTORAL AUTHORITY

Young people's anger mounts ahead of election in Tunisia

TUNIS: Ahead of Tunisia's presidential election on October 6, May Abidi, a student in her 20s, can't contain her anger any longer.

She decided to join the first rally by the newly formed coalition of civil society groups and political parties — The Tunisian Network for the Defence of Rights and Freedoms — whose aim is to draw attention to what they fear is a surge of authoritarianism by the incumbent President Kais Saied.

It turned out to be the largest demonstration in years, with thousands of mainly young Tunisians taking to the streets in the capital, Tunis.

"We all came to demand an electoral feast of democracy like we had in 2019," Abidi told DW during the rally on September 13.

In 2019, people called for a change after some nine cabinets had failed to tackle the country's economic problems, unemployment and corruption.

Second presidential election

In the country's second presidential election in 2019 — the first followed the 2011 uprising that had toppled long-term autocrat Zine El Abidine Ben Ali — the former law professor and politically independent candidate Kais Saied won with a majority of 72% of the votes.

He promised to tackle corruption, reform the country and provide a better future for young people.

However, five years later, the scorn of the young people is now increasingly turning against the 66-year-old president.

"Most of the young people who voted for Kais Saied in 2019 are extremely disappointed by now," said Abidi. "They elected a man who said that he believed in the youth, but he ultimately puts the youth in prison."



Tunisia cracks down on dissent

Two years after Saied was elected, he set out to consolidate his power. Since July 2021, Saied has dismantled most of the country's democratic bodies and has jailed journalists, lawyers and political opponents.

Human rights organisations have condemned the ongoing crackdown which is seen as his instrument to secure a second term in the upcoming election.

Of the 17 candidates who had announced to run for office, 14 contenders have been either excluded or detained.

Ultimately, Tunisia's electoral authority has admitted only two candidates to challenge Saied.

However, on Wednesday, a court in the northwestern city of Jendouba handed one of these confirmed candidates, the 43-year-old Ayachi Zammel,

head of the opposition Azimoun party, a 20-month prison term for charges related to forging voter endorsements.

According to Zammel's lawyer, the accusations are baseless.

He also said Zammel, who is the youngest candidate, will still run for presidency. "Nothing can put an end to his candidacy apart from death," the lawyer told the news agency Reuters.

Tunisia's largest opposition party Ennahda said last week that more than 90 of its members have been arrested.

In a statement, Ennahda called the arrests "an unprecedented campaign of raids and violations of the most basic rights guaranteed by law."

Nearly half of Tunisia's youth want to leave

In light of the increasingly repressive political climate and the coun-

try's ailing economic situation, with a current unemployment rate of 39% among young people, Wasim Hamadi, a young political activist, is not surprised that young people are considering leaving the country.

"The situation is deteriorating sharply, it is dominated by fear and intimidation," he told DW at the rally in Tunis.

Tunisia has long been one of the most frequented departure points for migrants en route to Europe. However, it's not only aspiring migrants from sub-Saharan countries who try to cross to nearby Lampedusa island, in Italy.

According to the latest weekly snapshot by the UN refugee agency, the percentage of Tunisians who arrived in Italy between January and July 2024 rose to 13% from 8% in the same period in 2023. -DW



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OMAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Autumnal equinox marks end of summer



Times News Service

MUSCAT: : The autumnal equinox has officially begun in the Sultanate of Oman, marking the astronomical start of the autumn season. This significant event occurred yesterday at 4:43 PM (MCT), signaling the moment when the sun crosses the celestial equator, resulting in nearly equal day and night across the globe.

Hawa bint Abdullah Al Balushi, a member of the Oman Astronomical Society, explained the phenomenon: "On the day of the autumnal equinox, the sun rises directly over the equator. In Muscat, the sun rose at 5:55 AM, reached its zenith at 11:59 AM, and will set at 6:03 PM, giving us approximately 12 hours and 8 minutes of daylight."

Al Balushi also noted that the exact day when night and day are equal varies slightly by location. In Oman, this will occur on Saturday, September 28, with the sun rising and setting at 5:57 AM and PM respectively, resulting in exactly 12 hours of daylight.

She further explained that the Earth's rotation on its axis and its orbit around the sun are responsible for the changing seasons. The tilt of Earth's axis, at 23.5 degrees, causes variations in day length and the occurrence of solstices and equinoxes. This tilt is also the reason for longer summer days and shorter winter days.

The equinox typically falls on September 20, 21, or 22 due to slight differences between the calendar year and the tropical year, which measures the Earth's orbit around the sun. Adjustments, such as leap years, help

realign the calendar with these natural cycles.

Al Balushi highlighted that on the day of the equinox, the sun is perfectly aligned with the equator, moving from the southern hemisphere—where countries like Australia and parts of South America and Africa are located—to the northern hemisphere, which includes Europe, Asia, North America, and the North Pole. This marks the start of autumn in the north and spring in the south.

She also pointed out an interesting observation: on this day, the sun rises at exactly 90 degrees east and sets at precisely 270 degrees west, providing a unique opportunity to accurately determine the directions of east and west.

In polar regions, the equinox has additional significance. At the North Pole, the sun rises for the first time in six months, heralding a day that will last half a year, while at the South Pole, the sun sets for a six-month-long night.

Looking ahead, Al Balushi mentioned that the autumn season will last 89 days, 20 hours, and 37 minutes, leading up to the winter solstice on Saturday, December 21. During this time, nights will gradually lengthen until the solstice, the shortest day of the year.

She concluded by explaining that the equinox is one of four key astronomical events that define the changing seasons: the spring and autumn equinoxes, when day and night are nearly equal, and the summer and winter solstices, when day and night are at their extremes.

MEETING

SAF Chief of Staff receives Chinese military official



MUSCAT: Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison on Sunday day the Deputy Director of the Logistics Department of the Navy of the People's Republic of China and his accompanying delegation.

The two sides reviewed cooperation and exchanged expertise in matters of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Brigadier Ali Mohammed Al Balushi, SAF Assistant Chief of Staff

for Administration and Supply and several senior officers at the COSAF.

Meanwhile, Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison today the Deputy Director of the Logistics Department of the Navy of the People's Republic of China and his accompanying delegation.

During this meeting, the two sides exchanged views regarding several naval matters of common concern. -ONA

Iran mine explosion kills 51 people, leaves 20 injured



Iran

The deaths were at a coal mine in Tabas, some 540 kilometres (335 miles) southeast of the capital, Tehran

TEHRAN: Iranian state media on Sunday said an incident at a coal mine in eastern Iran killed at least 51 people and left 20 others injured. The deaths were at a coal mine in Tabas, some 540 kilometres (335 miles) southeast

of the capital, Tehran. State media had earlier said about 24 people remained trapped below ground. The explosion occurred on Saturday at about 9 p.m. (1730 GMT/UTC). Emergency personnel were responding to the incident at the

mine in South Khorasan province. The accident was reportedly caused by a methane gas explosion in two blocks of the mine run by the Madanjoo company. The total number of workers in both blocks when the blast happened was 69, state media said. Footage was broadcast in Iran of dead people in their work uniforms being pulled out of the mine. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian expressed his condolences to the victims in remarks that were broadcast on state television. “Unfortunately, we learned that an accident occurred in one of the



coal mines in Tabas and a number of our compatriots lost their lives. I offer my condolences to their respected families,” Pezeshkian said. The Iranian president has ordered all measures to be taken to rescue the victims and also stated that an investigation has been opened into the disaster. According to local prosecutor Ali Nesaei, “gas accumulation in the mine” has complicated search and rescue efforts. “Currently, the priority is to provide aid to the injured and pull people from the rubble,” Nesaei said, according to state outlet IRNA.

How common are deadly mine disasters in Iran? While Iran is widely known as an oil-producing country, it is also rich in various minerals, including coal. About 1.8 million tons of coal is extracted from Iranian mines each year. In 2009, 20 workers died in several incidents. Eleven workers were killed in two separate mining incidents in 2013. A coal mine explosion killed at least 42 people in 2017. Loose safety standards and the lack of emergency response in mining areas are often blamed for the deaths. — **Agencies**

South Korea and Czech Republic to launch dialogue channel

SEOUL: The Republic of Korea and the Czech Republic have agreed to set up a high-level dialogue channel to discuss ways of stronger cooperation on economic and financial issues, Seoul’s finance ministry said on Sunday. According to Yonhap News, the major agreement was made during a meeting between South Korea’s Finance Minister Choi Sang-mok and his Czech counterpart, Zbynek Stanjura, held on Friday in Prague, as Choi visited the European nation to accompany President Yoon Suk Yeol on his four-day trip.

Regular policy talks The director-level economic dialogue channel will be launched for regular policy talks on macroeconomic, finance and fiscal issues, and the inaugural meeting is expected to take place in the first half of 2025, according to the Ministry of Finance and Economy. On the sidelines of the meeting, the two nations signed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) among their state financial institutions, which call for sharing information about major infrastructure projects and providing tailored financial support to companies that seek to take part in the projects and make an investment in the European country. — **ANI**

Tourist arrivals increase by 73%

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia achieved a 73 per cent increase in the number of international tourists arrivals, while international tourism revenues increased by 207 per cent, according to the World Tourism Barometer by UN Tourism.

SPA data According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the Kingdom continued to top the list of G20 countries in the indicators of the growth rate of the number of international tourists and the growth rate of international tourism revenues according to the latest available data for the first seven months of 2024 compared to the similar period of 2019. — **UNI/WAM**

ONGOING ISRAELI AGGRESSION

Global solidarity with the Palestinian people

GAZA: Numerous cities and capitals worldwide witnessed large-scale demonstrations on Sunday in response to the ongoing Israeli aggression in Gaza. Across Europe, thousands participated in protests across various locations, including Paris, Vienna, Uppsala, Stockholm, Milan, Maastricht, Liverpool, Odense, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Hamburg, Freiburg, and Berlin, all advocating for the Palestinian people and calling for a ceasefire and humanitarian aid to Gaza. Demonstrators raised Palestinian flags and held signs condemning the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people. Participants



emphasised the need to end double standards and demanded accountability for the occupation’s actions, particularly regarding the

ongoing aggression and the Israeli occupation’s atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank, including Jerusalem. The demonstration saw participation from members of the Arab and Islamic communities, European supporters, and representatives from German political parties. Notably, Detlef Griesche, a former member of the German parliament from the Social Democratic Party, attended the protest as the honorary president of the German-Palestinian Society. Demonstrators in Bremen carried Palestinian and Lebanese flags, alongside banners expressing solidarity with the

Palestinian people and condemning the actions of the Israeli military. Samer Bilal Aslan, the head of the Palestinian community in Bremen and its suburbs, stated that the world and the international community reject the occupation and the war crimes being committed against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank, acknowledging that this occupation is illegal. Additionally, climate activist Greta Thunberg, during a demonstration in Stockholm, described the genocide occurring in Palestine as “horrific,” asserting that silence in the face of such atrocities equates to “complicity.” — **WAF**

QUAD SUMMIT

Leaders announce MoUs, schemes to prioritise Indo-Pacific development

WILMINGTON: Terming the Quad as a “force of Global Good” the Quad leaders made a number of announcements to address the development priorities of the Indo-Pacific region and of the global community as a whole. US President Joe Biden on September 21 hosted Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia, Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Wilmington, Delaware, for the fourth Quad Leaders’ Summit. To take the Quad agenda forward, the Quad Leaders adopted the Quad Wilmington Declaration.

This year, the Quad announced executing tangible projects that benefit partner countries across the Indo-Pacific—including in the Pacific, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean Region. These include ‘Quad Cancer Moonshot’, a groundbreaking partnership to save lives in the Indo-Pacific region by combating cervical cancer. Another initiative announced was the ‘Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific’ (MAITRI) to enable Indo-Pacific partners to maximise tools provided through IPMDA (Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness). It aims to support the concept of open science for space-based monitoring of extreme weather events and climate impact. The leaders pledged a collective Quad effort to boost energy efficiency, including the deployment and manufacturing of high-efficiency, affordable cooling systems in the Indo-Pacific region. An announcement was made for the first ‘Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission’ in 2025 to improve interoperability and ad-



vance maritime safety and the ‘Quad Ports of the Future Partnership,’ which will harness the Quad’s collective expertise to support sustainable and resilient port infrastructure development across the Indo-Pacific. Quad leaders also announced ‘Quad Principles for Development and Deployment of Digital Public Infrastructure’ in the region and beyond. The leaders also announced a ‘Semiconductor Supply Chains Contingency Network Memorandum of Cooperation’ to enhance the resilience of Quad’s semiconductor supply chains. India also announced the establishment of a space-based web portal for Mauritius to support the concept of open science for space-based monitoring of extreme weather events and climate impact. It announced a new sub-category under the Quad STEM Fellowship for students of the Indo-Pacific region to pursue a four-year bachelor’s level engineering programme at a Government of India-funded technical institute. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a 5 lakh scholarship for Indo-Pacific students at the

Quad leaders summit. This initiative will enable 50 recipients to pursue a four-year undergraduate engineering programme at a Government of India-funded technical institution. Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed India’s commitment to the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad). During PM Modi’s address to the Quad Leaders’ Summit held in Delaware, he described the grouping comprising of Australia, India, US and Japan as “Quick Unified Assistance Delivery,” and said that the regional body “is here to stay”. During his three-day visit to the United States, PM Modi held bilateral talks with the Quad leaders- President of the US Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Prime Minister of Japan, Fumio Kishida. While Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida extended support to PM Modi for his initiative to organise Voice of Global South Summits, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese termed India a “predominant power in the Indian Ocean”. — **ANI**

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world



Ministry of Health

NOTICE

(AUCTION NO.2/2024)

The Ministry of Health would like to invite sealed bids for Removing and Selling of Parking Shades located in the Ministry of Health, Muscat Governorate. The Offers should be submitted in sealed envelopes.

Interested Companies and establishments may collect the documents and specifications of this Auction from the Directorate of Purchase & Tenders at General Directorate of Financial Affairs at Ministry’s Headquarters in Al Khuwair. The fee for the documents is 25 O.R. and can be collected during official working hours (8:30 AM - 12:30 PM) until September 26, 2024.

All bids must include a Bank Guarantee or a Certified Cheque valid for 90 days and issued by a local bank for (1000 O. R). This must be addressed to Ministry of Health and enclosed with the bid as an auction bond that will be reimbursed to unsuccessful bidder. A bid that is not accompanied by the auction bond will be rejected.

The offers must be enclosed in sealed envelopes duly signed and stamped in the original form shall be addressed to H.E. the Chairperson of the Tender Committee, clearly stating the title: “Auction No. 02/2024 for Removing and Selling of Parking Shades in the Ministry of Health, in Muscat Governorate. Envelopes shall not bear any sign that refers to bidder’s name or identity.

The Offers shall be deposited at the Purchase and Tender Department in Directorate of Financial Affairs by 9: 00 am on Wednesday, October 2,2024. Offers submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

The Ministry reserves the right to reject any bids without providing reasons.

SPORTS

FORMULA ONE

Norris dominates Singapore GP to cut Verstappen's title lead again

SINGAPORE: Lando Norris converted pole position into victory with a charging drive during Sunday night's Singapore Grand Prix, finishing 20 seconds clear of Max Verstappen and reducing the championship leader's points' advantage once more.

Norris punched the air in delight as the podium finishers pulled up in parc ferme, having cut Verstappen's title lead from 59 points to 52. McLaren, meanwhile, depart Singapore with an increased 41-point advantage over Red Bull in the constructors'.

Norris banished the memories of previous poor starts from the front of the grid to slot ahead of Verstappen at Turn 1 and control the opening laps, before romping clear and spending most of the encounter in a league of his own.

With no answer to Norris's raw pace, Verstappen had to settle for a distant second position, while Oscar Piastri's rise from fifth to third – and a lowly points finish for Sergio Perez – means McLaren move further ahead of Red Bull in the constructors' standings.

Piastri stayed out longer than

anyone else in the first stint and charged his way past Mercedes pair Lewis Hamilton and George Russell with fresher tyres, something Charles Leclerc – as another late stopper – tried to repeat across the closing laps.

Leclerc overtook Hamilton with relative ease but could not quite do the same to Russell before the chequered flag dropped, leaving the Ferrari man in a Silver Arrows sandwich – team mate Carlos Sainz recovering from his qualifying crash to take seventh.

Fernando Alonso added some

more points to Aston Martin's tally in eighth, with Nico Hulkenberg giving Haas something to celebrate in ninth, as the aforementioned Perez – having been knocked out in the second qualifying phase – completed the top 10 places.

Franco Colapinto added to his impressive drives in Italy and Azerbaijan en route to P11, just a couple of seconds away from Perez and a points reward, followed by the lead RB and Alpine cars of Yuki Tsunoda and Esteban Ocon, and the second Aston Martin machine of Lance Stroll.

Kick Sauber drivers Zhou Guanyu and Valtteri Bottas crossed the line in 15th and 16th respectively, taking advantage of a difficult race for Pierre Gasly in the other Alpine and a three-stop affair for RB's Daniel Ricciardo, who set the fastest lap.

Alex Albon lost a hatful of positions at the start when he felt he was forced wide by Williams team mate Colapinto and later retired due to an overheating car, with the Haas of Kevin Magnussen joining him on the DNF list at the end of the race after picking up a puncture.

FIRST TEST: DAY FOUR

Sri Lanka just two wickets away from victory against NZ



GALLE: Rachin Ravindra led New Zealand's charge as they scored 194 runs in the final two sessions of day four in pursuit of their target of 275, but a fast-deteriorating Galle surface and relentless pressure from Sri Lanka's spinners meant they have only two wickets in hand to notch the remaining 68 runs.

At stumps, Ravindra was unbeaten on 91, but he was fast running out of company; Ajaz Patel just about managed to survive through to stumps.

New Zealand will, no doubt, fancy their chances of completing this chase, but it will not be easy when the nature of the surface is taken into account.

This was a day, therefore, that

belonged to the spinners, starting with Ajaz's five wickets in the morning session - he finished with 6 for 90 - and ending with Prabhath Jayasuriya and Ramesh Mendis grabbing three apiece. In all, 14 wickets fell in the day, 13 of them to spin.

But on a day when the pendulum got a solid workout, it was Sri Lanka who found themselves in the ascendancy at the close. That was largely down to a final session in which they grabbed four wickets.

Brief scores: New Zealand 340 and 207/8 (Ravindra 91*; Jayasuriya 3-66, Ramesh 3-83) need another 68 runs to beat Sri Lanka 305 and 309 (Karunaratne 83, Chandimal 61, Ajaz 6-90).

The double act of hundred and six-for by the experienced Chennai boy secured 1-0 lead for the hosts in the Test series

CHENNAI: R Ashwin completed his fourth double of a hundred and a five-for in the same Test - and his second in successive Tests at Chepauk - to take India to a 1-0 series lead against Bangladesh on the fourth day in Chennai on Sunday.

The lead in the two-match series extends their advantage at the top of the World Test Championship (WTC) rankings.

Bangladesh have still never beaten India in Tests in 14 attempts. Bangladesh were bowled out for 234 in the first session of an overcast day while chasing a victory target of 515. Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto kept the probing bowling at bay, spending a wicketless first hour with Shakib Al Hasan.

But Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja broke down the resistance in the second hour. Ashwin's 37th five-

wicket haul took him level with the great Shane Warne, behind only Muthiah Muralitharan's 67.

India started the day needing six wickets to win, but were denied at the start. The first hour, although wicketless, featured testing spells from Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah. Siraj, in particular, bowled through the hour, kept going past Shanto's bat. Shakib wore a blow on his fingers, but managed to keep Shanto company.

Just after drinks, though, Chennai boy Ashwin and Chennai Super King Jadeja got together in a reminder of how their batting partnership on day one took the game away from Bangladesh.

In his first over, Ashwin's drift made Shakib play down the wrong line for Yashasvi Jaiswal to take another sharp catch at short leg.

Jadeja's third in the next over.

"It was a great result looking at what lies ahead," skipper Rohit Sharma said after India made an ominous start to a fresh Test season of 10 matches. On 38-year-old Ashwin's heroics, Rohit said: "He's always there for us over the years. I don't know if I speak here (that) it'll be enough to cover what he does for the team. He looks like he's never out of the game."

After the win, India confirmed that the same 16-man squad would be retained for the second Test in Kanpur, starting on September 27.

Brief scores: India 376 (Ashwin 113, Jadeja 86, Mahmud 5-83) and 287 for 4 decl. (Gill 119*, Pant 109, Mehidy 2-103) beat Bangladesh 149 (Shakib 32, Bumrah 4-50, Jadeja 2-19) and 234 (Shanto 82, Ashwin 6-88, Jadeja 3-58). - Agencies

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GOLD PRICES SURGE
Gold prices are witnessing a strong resurgence in both international and domestic markets, with increased jewellery buying and investment activities expected to persist, according to the latest report from the World Gold Council.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 4,708.53 points, down by 0.35% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.33% at 429.37 points. Al Suwadi Power, up 1.33%, was the top gainer while Al Anwar Ceramics, down 5.17%, was the top loser.

Ministry programme to drive innovation in energy sector

The ‘Majd’ programme is distinguished by its ability to transform challenges into opportunities through innovation, contributing to the creation of a national economy where local companies are active partners in driving growth and development

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Energy and Minerals celebrated the launch of the “Majd” programme, designed to enhance local content within Oman’s energy and minerals sectors.

The event was attended by Dr Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, and Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals. In attendance were representatives from major oil and gas, renewable energy, and mining companies, as well as distinguished guests from the public and private sectors.

The “Majd” programme is distinguished by its ability to transform challenges into opportunities through innovation, contributing to the creation of a national economy where local companies are active partners in driving growth and development. It empowers ambitious Omani youth to invest their



productive and creative energies. The programme’s unified identity fosters trust and alignment among all stakeholders, from local investors to international partners, creating a conducive investment environment for foreign direct investment and boosting investor confidence in the Omani economy.

The programme’s new visual identity reflects the positive values of local orientation within the energy and minerals sectors, aligned with Oman Vision 2040. This vision encompasses promoting local procurement, building sustainable human capital and manufacturing capabilities in these sectors, which are fundamental to economic and social development.

The event’s sponsor, Dr Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, emphasized that the Council of Ministers’ approval of the National Local Content Policy (2024-2030) embodies Oman’s strategic direction to provide comprehensive support to national industries and service activities, and empower entrepreneurs and the private sector to drive growth and expand economic diversification sectors.

Al Saqri emphasised that the en-

ergy sector is a primary pillar supporting Oman’s economic and social development, and is a leading sector in initiating programs that enhance local content in energy sector activities. Total spending on small and medium-sized enterprises in the oil and gas sector in 2023 amounted to approximately 16% of the total value of purchases and tenders in the sector. He noted that the energy sector is among the core sectors that are being focused on to expand the national local content system.

The launch of a package of local content programs in the energy and minerals sectors today will further expand this national system across all sectors and increase the value of local content in the energy sector, especially given its growing role in supporting promising sectors such as renewable energy, green hydrogen industries, and the mining sector, as one of the targeted sectors to support the diversification objectives in the 10th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025).

Al Saqri emphasised that Oman’s local content policy is anchored on 4 fundamental pillars. The 1st pillar pertains to supply chains, encompassing all activi-

ties and processes from the arrival of raw materials at manufacturing companies to the final delivery of products to the end consumer.

The 2nd pillar is dedicated to developing the national workforce, where the local content system will play a pivotal role in creating job opportunities and targeted training programs aimed at enhancing skills and building national capabilities. The 3rd pillar is centred around fostering innovation and technology transfer with high technical content. The 4th pillar focuses on nurturing entrepreneurial activities by prioritizing local small and medium enterprises in government project contracts and procurement.

He further noted that Oman continues to strengthen its focus on leveraging local content through various programs and initiatives, including the establishment of the National Office for Local Content, which is tasked with enhancing project execution efficiency across various sectors and realizing national returns that contribute to stimulating the national economy and building national capacities for the workforce involved in government projects and contracts.

Additionally, a mandatory list has been implemented to ensure that small and medium enterprises benefit from contracts and tenders on the Esnad platform, which is affiliated with the Tender Board. Moreover, the regulatory bylaw for registering suppliers, contractors, and consulting firms has been enforced, and the National Product Loyalty Program has been launched to support and promote Omani products.

In his keynote address at the inauguration ceremony, Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, the Minister of Energy and Minerals underscored that enhancing local content in the energy and minerals sectors represents a pivotal stride towards achieving sustainable economic development. He further elaborated, “Through the Majd Local Content Program, we are steadfast in our commitment to bolstering the role of domestic companies, localizing industries, and nurturing national talent. We shall continue our endeavours to realize the economic and social aspirations of the Sultanate of Oman, ensuring sustained growth and prosperity for future generations.”

Al Aufi elucidated that since its inception in 2013, the local con-

tent program within the energy and minerals sectors has contributed an excess of 33 billion US dollars to Oman’s economy. Moreover, it has facilitated the implementation of over 90 local content opportunities, resulting in the establishment of more than 100 industrial facilities or workshops with investments exceeding 400 million US dollars, in addition to creating over 3,000 direct jobs in the private sector. Furthermore, support for small and medium-sized enterprises has continued to grow, with expenditures surpassing 1.5 billion US dollars in 2023. The unified registration platform, now encompassing over 6,500 companies, including more than 5,500 local firms, has also been developed.

In a concerted effort to bolster the mission of the Majd Local Content Program, 12 agreements across diverse sectors were inked during the event, with a combined value exceeding 172.5 million US dollars. Notably, all agreements and business awards incorporate a mandatory expenditure with small and medium-sized enterprises or ventures affiliated with the entrepreneurship program. Additionally, they mandate the procurement of local products and adherence to Omanization plans as integral components of the integrated local content plans outlined in the contracts.

The scope of the signed agreements spans construction projects and comprehensive service contracts. For instance, Nama Dhofar Services inked an agreement with Galfar Engineering & Contracting to develop a water treatment plant. Similarly, Oxy Oman entered into a contract with Jalmood National Company for integrated drilling and development services.

Furthermore, several agreements were signed with small and medium-sized enterprises to provide various services. For instance, Daleel Petroleum Company entered into a contract Al-Nujum Professional Energy Services Company. Notably, the latter company boasts a workforce entirely composed of local skilled personnel to execute these technical services.

INNOVATION

Omantel advances digital infrastructure with successful trial of RedCap 5G technology



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Reflecting its unwavering commitment to enhancing Oman’s digital infrastructure, Omantel has successfully conducted a laboratory trial of RedCap, an advanced 5G technology. This innovation promises higher speeds and greater efficiency for the 5G network at a lower cost, adding significant value to the services offered to Omantel customers.

This initiative aligns with Omantel’s strategic goal of providing unparalleled digital solutions. Developed in collaboration with Huawei, RedCap represents a significant advancement in 5G technology, aimed at improving internet connectivity and expanding the range of applications available to users.

Dr. Ali bin Said Al Hashmi, General Manager of Infrastructure Planning and Design at Omantel, remarked, “We are excited to pioneer advanced technological solutions within the Sultanate of Oman. Our efforts contribute to

accelerating the digital transformation process and fostering a knowledge-based economy, in line with Oman Vision 2040’s objectives for the technology sector. Our goal is to elevate service standards for both business and individual subscribers, ensuring access to world-class services.”

Dr. Al Hashmi further noted, “The successful trials of RedCap’s 5G technology mark a significant milestone in our journey toward a thriving digital future for Oman. We believe this technology will revolutionize the telecommunications sector and unlock new opportunities for innovation and business growth.”

Designed to meet the evolving demands of Internet of Things (IoT) applications, RedCap offers high speeds and energy efficiency, making it ideal for a range of devices, from smart wearables to advanced industrial equipment.

This technology ensures fast and seamless user experiences while extending the battery life of connected devices, thereby reducing

operational and maintenance costs.

The benefits of RedCap technology extend beyond superior internet speeds. It paves the way for diverse applications, including remote monitoring, industrial process optimization, and enhanced healthcare solutions, among others.

Through the integration of its operations, processes, and extensive expertise in communications and digital technology, Omantel has established itself as a leading telecommunications company in Oman and beyond. The company’s innovative approaches have delivered state-of-the-art solutions to various consumer and business sectors. Committed to delivering exceptional customer experiences and exceeding expectations, Omantel invests in emerging technologies to help advance Oman Vision 2040. This includes cutting-edge ICT solutions such as cloud computing, AI, smart solutions, cybersecurity, and more, driving innovation and leadership in new and advanced technologies.

INVESTMENT COMPANY

Ominvest appoints United Securities as liquidity provider to enhance shareholder value

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman International Development and Investment Company (Ominvest), a leading investment company with a strong regional and global presence, has appointed United Securities as the liquidity provider, in line with regulations set forth by the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) last year.

The agreement, will be effective from September 2024, is designed to as an active mandate of Ominvest shares to enhance liquidity.

This strategic initiative is expected to deliver long-term value to Ominvest’s shareholders by boosting liquidity and trading activity of its shares. This aligns with Ominvest’s broader strategy to create sustained value through its diverse, high-quality investment portfolio and disciplined financial approach. Ominvest’s strong track record in dividend distribution and profitability, coupled with its robust governance and risk management framework, further strengthens its position as a leading player in the market.

“We believe this partnership with United Securities will increase liquidity of our shares and enhance investor confidence,” said Abdulaziz Mohammed Al Balushi, Group CEO of Ominvest. “Our mandate to United Securities is to actively participate in trading Ominvest shares, ensuring that we remain a highly attractive investment option for local and international investors.”

With total assets exceeding



\$3.5 billion (OMR 1.352 billion) and a market value of over \$620 million (OMR 240 million), Ominvest continues to deliver solid financial performance while maintaining a commitment to ESG principles. This initiative is part of Ominvest’s ongoing efforts to reward its esteemed shareholders and build on its success in the

capital markets.

Ominvest’s diversified portfolio, long-standing profitability, and focus on sustainability and responsible growth set it apart as a leader in the investment space. This new initiative is just one of many designed to ensure long-term value creation for all stakeholders.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Al Suwadi Power, up 1.33%, was the top gainer while Al Anwar Ceramics, down 5.17%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,708.53 points, down by 0.35% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.33% at 429.37 points. Al Suwadi Power, up 1.33%, was the top gainer while Al Anwar Ceramics, down 5.17%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 503 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 3.62 million, with more than 24.49 million shares changing hands. Out of 40 traded securities, 6 advanced, 15 declined, and 19 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 677K while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 583K, followed by foreign investors for RO 95K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,733.28 points, down 0.42%.

Prices of were up by respectively. Prices of OMINVEST, Dhofar Insurance, Bank Nizwa, Sohar International Bank were down by 2.44%, 2.27%, 0.94%, 0.72% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,679.23 points, down 1.24%. Prices of were up by respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Chromite, Galfar Engineering, Voltamp Energy, Oman Cement were down by 5.17%, 3.20%, 3.13%, 2.38%, 1.28% respectively. Services Index was down by 0.06% before closing at 1,813.85 points. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, Oman National Engineering, Abraj Energy, Al Maha Markting, Ooredoo were up by 1.33%, 0.89%, 0.68%, 0.48%, 0.36% respectively. Prices of Muscat Desalination, National Gas, Barka Desalination, Renaissance Services, Sembcorp Salalah were down by 4.11%, 2.30%, 1.55%, 1.27%, 0.95% respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,725.12	4,704.19	4,708.53	4,725.12	-16.59	-0.35
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,767.69	7,728.06	7,733.28	7,766.01	-32.72	-0.42
Industry Index	5,735.01	5,658.06	5,679.23	5,750.76	-71.54	-1.24
Services Index	1,829.12	1,811.33	1,813.85	1,814.97	-1.12	-0.06
MSX Shariah Index	431.19	429.37	429.37	430.77	-1.41	-0.33
MSX TR INDEX	6,567.18	6,538.08	6,544.12	6,567.18	-23.06	-0.35
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,824.89	8,779.87	8,785.80	8,822.98	-37.18	-0.42
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,616.84	6,528.06	6,552.48	6,635.01	-82.54	-1.24
SERVICES TR IDX	2,128.47	2,107.77	2,110.70	2,112.00	-1.30	-0.06
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
24,497,464	3,623,909	503	24,575,706,158	6	15	19	40

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

ISN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. BD	DIFF%	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PD VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	320,766	24,405	14	0.076	0.077	0.076	0.076	0.075	0.001	1.333	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.100	54,294,882
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	10,000	1,130	1	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.112	0.001	0.893	0.113	0.112	0.115	0.100	16,950,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	206,139	61,154	22	0.296	0.298	0.296	0.298	0.296	0.002	0.676	0.298	0.296	0.298	0.100	229,519,600
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	7,240	2,027	3	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.279	0.001	0.358	0.280	0.280	0.300	0.100	182,264,384
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	1,560	435	1	0.279	0.279	0.279	0.279	0.279	0.000	0.000	0.279	0.279	0.289	0.100	453,639,033
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	400	320	1	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.000	0.000	0.800	0.796	0.800	0.100	76,000,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQYA INVESTMENT HO.	50,000	3,600	1	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.100	6,480,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	604,284	156,506	13	0.259	0.259	0.258	0.259	0.259	0.000	0.000	0.258	0.259	0.259	0.100	1,944,156,839
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	51,071	50,718	13	0.995	0.995	0.993	0.995	0.995	0.000	0.000	0.995	0.991	1.009	0.100	746,250,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	17,733	1,383	3	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.077	0.084	0.100	13,650,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	1,155,284	87,689	38	0.076	0.076	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.078	0.100	50,616,557
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	4,026,737	580,600	138	0.144	0.146	0.143	0.144	0.144	0.000	0.000	0.144	0.144	0.151	0.100	623,609,844
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	15,657,022	2,166,175	25	0.139	0.139	0.138	0.138	0.139	-0.001	-0.719	0.138	0.138	0.139	0.100	769,659,985
OM0000004735	SEMBORP SALALAH	42,000	4,459	7	0.104	0.110	0.104	0.104	0.105	-0.001	-0.952	0.104	0.104	0.110	0.100	99,275,483
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	336,680	131,283	14	0.391	0.391	0.388	0.388	0.393	-0.005	-1.272	0.388	0.386	0.388	0.100	91,727,080
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	7,140	2,730	5	0.386	0.386	0.380	0.385	0.390	-0.005	-1.282	0.385	0.382	0.385	0.100	127,385,993
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	169,367	61,196	30	0.369	0.369	0.358	0.360	0.369	-0.009	-2.439	0.360	0.358	0.360	0.100	240,611,553
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	425,750	68,736	25	0.170	0.170	0.160	0.165	0.174	-0.009	-5.172	0.165	0.162	0.170	0.100	36,300,000
Total	18	23,089,173	3,404,545	354												
Parallel Market																
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	4,820	5,061	1	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.045	0.005	0.478	1.050	1.045	0.000	0.100	72,450,000
OM0000001301	DHOFA FOODS AND INVESTMENT	11,378	698	9	0.060	0.063	0.060	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.060	0.063	0.100	12,453,646
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	27,000	1,215	2	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.000	0.045	0.100	13,821,585
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	16,750	1,256	10	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.080	0.100	15,913,500
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	892	36	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.044	0.046	0.100	11,000,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	557,083	32,310	31	0.058	0.058	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.057	0.060	0.100	83,368,283
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	200	23	1	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.115	0.116	0.100	58,431,908
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	400,180	42,019	6	0.107	0.107	0.105	0.105	0.106	-0.001	-0.943	0.105	0.105	0.106	0.100	234,880,068
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	11,550	761	3	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.065	0.066	-0.001	-1.515	0.065	0.065	0.072	0.100	31,904,365
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	16,000	2,012	2	0.125	0.127	0.125	0.127	0.129	-0.002	-1.550	0.127	0.120	0.129	0.100	9,591,294
OM0000001095	DHOFA INSURANCE	5,000	1,075	1	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.220	-0.005	-2.273	0.215	0.000	0.215	0.100	24,241,804
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	24,980	2,123	4	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.087	-0.002	-2.299	0.085	0.085	0.087	0.100	7,225,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	18,500	6,835	4	0.366	0.370	0.366	0.370	0.379	-0.009	-2.375	0.370	0.370	0.366	0.100	30,119,018
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	130,743	16,452	22	0.127	0.127	0.123	0.124	0.128	-0.004	-3.125	0.123	0.123	0.126	0.100	25,170,319
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	5	17	1	3.450	3.450	3.450	3.450	3.564	-0.114	-3.199	3.450	3.210	3.450	1.000	11,385,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	2,231	156	2	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.073	-0.003	-4.110	0.070	0.070	0.076	0.100	10,888,528
Total	16	1,227,282	112,052	100												

CHINA

Accessible high-level manufacturing a new magnet for global investors

HEFEI: Eyeing opportunities emerging from the opening-up and upgrading of China's manufacturing sector, multinational companies gathered at a conference on Friday that was held as part of the ongoing 2024 World Manufacturing Convention in Hefei, the capital of east China's Anhui Province. Their discussions focused on how the country's advancements in

manufacturing are opening doors for enhanced global cooperation and investment, signaling the industry's growing appeal to international investors. The conference was a key event at the convention, attracting 178 political and business leaders from 19 countries and regions, including representatives of 92 Fortune 500 and multinational firms. "The coordinated digital and

green transformation of traditional manufacturing is an inherent requirement for the development of new quality productive forces, and it has created new advantages for China's high-quality economic growth. This new model aligns closely with Honeywell's strategic objectives," William Yu, president of Honeywell China, said at the conference. With over 50 years of exper-

tise in industrial automation, the US multinational has steadily increased its investment in China in recent years. Its focus spans key sectors such as automation, energy transformation and aviation. According to China's Ministry of Commerce, a total of 36,968 new foreign-invested firms were established across China in the first eight months of 2024. —Xinhua

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WORLD GOLD COUNCIL

Gold prices surge as rural recovery and festive season drive strong demand: WGC

NEW DELHI: Gold prices are witnessing a strong resurgence in both international and domestic markets, with increased jewellery buying and investment activities expected to persist, according to the latest report from the World Gold Council (WGC). Rural demand, in particular, is showing signs of recovery. With an improved monsoon season and higher crop sowing this year, rural economic conditions are set to strengthen, which is anticipated to drive increased gold purchases, especially during the festive period. The report highlights that gold prices continued to strengthen in September. International gold prices rose by 2.8 per cent, while domestic prices increased by 1.6 per cent over the same period. Despite these gains, Indian gold prices remain 2 per cent below pre-Union Budget levels due to a 9 per cent reduction in import duties announced in July. Gold saw a strong performance in August, with international prices rising by 3.7 per cent and domestic prices up 3.9 per cent. This upward trend was largely driven by expectations of easing interest rates in the U.S., leading to a drop in the U.S. dollar, which further supported gold's appeal as an investment. Gold demand in India has remained robust, particularly following an initial surge after the import duty cut. Though demand for jewellery and bars and coins has since stabilised, industry reports suggest buying activity remains stronger than before the duty reduction. Many purchases that were previously delayed are now materialising, with consumers showing increased interest in heavier jewellery pieces. Looking ahead, industry participants are closely monitoring the key festive and wedding season, which runs from late August through December. Festive buying has already started strong, and



the wedding season is expected to further boost sales. Indian gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) have witnessed a surge in investor interest since the import duty cut and changes to long-term capital gains tax for gold ETFs were announced in the Union Budget. August saw record inflows of Rs 21 billion (~USD 238 million), significantly higher than the average monthly inflows of Rs 8 billion during the first half of 2024, according to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). Net inflows for the month also reached a record Rs 16 billion (~USD 192 million). Total assets under management (AUM) for Indian gold ETFs climbed to Rs 374 billion (~USD 4.4 billion) by the end of August, marking an 8 per cent month-on-month increase and a 54 per cent year-on-year rise. So far in 2024, net inflows into Indian gold ETFs have reached Rs 61 billion (~USD 735 million), a significant increase from Rs 15 billion during the same period last year. These ETFs have collectively added 9.5 tons of gold this year, bringing total gold holdings to 51.8 tons, a 29 per cent year-on-year increase. The steady inflows into Indian gold ETFs mirror global trends, driven by strong gold price performance, safe-haven demand,

and reduced opportunity costs. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also continued its gold-buying spree. Data indicates that the central bank acquired 10.3 tons of gold over the six weeks leading up to September 6, bringing its total purchases for the first eight months of the year to 50 tons. This surpasses the net gold purchases made in both 2022 and 2023, positioning the RBI as one of the world's leading gold buyers this year. As a result, the RBI's gold reserves have reached a record high of 853.6 tons, representing 9 per cent of its total foreign reserves, up from 7.5 per cent a year ago. India witnessed a record surge in gold imports in August, with a total value of USD 10.1 billion. This represents a threefold increase compared to the previous month and double the value from a year ago. The surge can be attributed to the reduction in import duties and heightened seasonal demand in anticipation of the festive season. In volume terms, gold imports reached approximately 140 tons in August, marking a threefold rise from the previous month. For the period from January to August, gold imports have risen by 30 per cent year-on-year, totaling USD 32 billion, further underscoring the growing demand for gold in India. —ANI



LIFESTYLE

NEW
TECHNIQUE
PREDICTS
WORSENING
OF CHRONIC
KIDNEY
DISEASE:
STUDY

The technique is predicated on the **examination of urine sample acid-base balances**, which might identify early indicators of acid accumulation, a condition that may be detrimental to kidney function

Aarhus University researchers have come up with a new technique that may represent a major advancement in the treatment of chronic renal disease. The technique has the ability to forecast how the illness will evolve, which may guarantee more effective and individualised care and lessen the frequency of hospital stays.

A new technique has been developed by researchers at Aarhus University to identify individuals with chronic renal failure who are most likely to eventually lose their kidney function. The technique is predicated on the examination of urine sample acid-base balances, which might identify early indicators of acid accumulation, a condition that may be detrimental to kidney function.

“We discovered that the balance between different acid-base elements in urine samples from patients with chronic kidney disease differs significantly from healthy individuals. This led us to develop a calculation model where the relationship between several of the urine’s acid-base elements could be associated with kidney function and disease progression over time,” explains Mads Vaarby Sorensen, PhD and researcher at the Department of Biomedicine, Aarhus University.

The new method allows doctors to detect

acid buildup earlier than is possible with current blood tests.

According to Mads Vaarby Sorensen, existing biomarkers can only measure acid buildup when it is severe enough to affect the blood’s acid-base balance. The new acid-base score can reveal imbalances in the urine much earlier in the process.

Another advantage of the new method is its precision. “Our method has been tested in several independent cohorts and has proven to be very accurate, even when we analyze urine samples from the same patients over a longer period,” explains Peder Berg, MD and postdoc at the Department of Biomedicine, Aarhus University.

The method has the potential to change how patients with chronic kidney disease are monitored and treated.

It can distinguish between patients with stable kidney function and those who rapidly lose kidney function.

Chronic kidney disease affects more than ten percent of the adult population and places significant demands on healthcare resources.

“The new method could potentially reduce the need for frequent check-ups for stable patients and free up resources for those with more aggressive disease progression,” says Samuel Svendsen, medical resident at the Department of Nephrology at Aarhus University Hospital.

The research group is already in dialogue with several international partners to expand their research in the field.

In the short term, the researchers hope to validate the method in up to 4,000 patients in collaboration with major European and American research centres.

In the long term, the researchers hope that the new method can help individualise the treatment of kidney disease. “If we can predict acid buildup earlier, we can intervene with acid-reducing treatment earlier, which could potentially extend the time patients can avoid dialysis,” explained Samuel Svendsen. – ANI

SPORTS

IBF HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

Dominant Dubois drubs Joshua inside five rounds to retain title

LONDON: Daniel Dubois sensationally dismantled fellow Briton Anthony Joshua in five rounds to catapult himself into global sporting stardom in front of 96,000 fans at Wembley Stadium on Saturday.

The 27-year-old dropped Joshua multiple times to retain the IBF heavyweight title and leave his domestic rival's career in ruins.

Biggest win

Londoner Dubois stopped Joshua, 34, with an incredible counter right hook to secure the biggest win of his 24-fight career.

"Are you not entertained?" Dubois shouted post-fight, to huge cheers in the packed-out stadium.

"I'm a gladiator. I am a warrior to



the bitter end. I want to get to the top level of this sport and reach my potential."

Joshua was stopped for just the

second time in his career

Joshua's bid to become a three-time champion and return to the division's top table ended in the



most dramatic and unexpected fashion.

AJ - who won his first world title more than eight years ago - suf-

fered a fourth loss in his 32nd bout, but hinted he will continue in the sport and has a clause to trigger a rematch with Dubois.

"You know I'm ready to kick off in the ring but I'm going to keep it respectful," he said.

"Before I came here, I always say to myself I'm a fighter for life. You keep rolling the dice."

An ecstatic Dubois, meanwhile, enjoyed the crowning moment which had eluded him after he was elevated to world champion when Oleksandr Usyk vacated the belt.

Promoter Eddie Hearn says there is a rematch clause Joshua can trigger

After one of British boxing's biggest shocks, Joshua's future is un-

der scrutiny, despite him suggesting he may continue in the sport.

The rebuild mission since losing a second consecutive fight to Usyk in 2022 was going smoothly, fuelled by a desire to join legends such as Muhammad Ali, Evander Holyfield, Lennox Lewis and Vitali Klitschko as a three-time champion.

But Joshua came up against a fearless and younger fighter determined to prove his worth on the world stage.

"I had a fast and sharp opponent, a lot of mistakes from my end," he admitted afterwards.

"I've been on a rollercoaster run, this is my time, this is my redemption story," added Dubois. - Agencies

LA LIGA PRIMERA DIVISION

Real Madrid rally to down Espanyol

MADRID: Kylian Mbappe scored his fourth goal in three La Liga games as Real Madrid came from behind to earn an emphatic 4-1 victory over Espanyol on Saturday.

Despite their dominance, the unbeaten hosts trailed nine minutes into the second half when Thibaut Courtois diverted Jofre Carreras' cross into his own net.

But Espanyol's surprise lead lasted only four minutes as Jude Bellingham's pass squeezed beneath goalkeeper Joan Garcia, allowing Dani Carvajal to fire into an open goal. The turnaround was complete with 15 minutes remaining when Rodrygo met Vinicius Junior's cross, before substitute Vinicius added a third three minutes later and Kylian Mbappe converted a late penalty.

The hosts fired 14 shots at goal in a frustrating first half, with Mbappe going closest when he was denied by Garcia at close range.

Carlo Ancelotti's side ended the match with 31 attempts in total, compared to Espanyol's one - which arrived in the 68th minute - and Real never panicked after falling behind in the second half.

Mbappe, now with six goals in his first eight appearances for the club since moving from Paris Saint-Germain in the summer, assisted Vinicius with a perfectly weighted through-ball before slotting in his spot-kick, awarded after Endrick was fouled by Carlos Romero.

Victory took Real up to second in La Liga after four wins in their opening six games - one point behind leaders Barcelona, who travel to Villarreal on Sunday with a perfect record. Ancelotti's side have also equalled the second-longest unbeaten run in La Liga, behind only Barcelona, who went 43 league games unbeaten between 2017 and 2018. - Agencies



GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Kane makes history

BREMEN: Harry Kane became the top scoring English player in Bundesliga history as he netted his 41st league goal for Bayern Munich in their 5-0 win at Werder Bremen on Saturday.

Michael Olise and Jamal Musiala gave the visitors a two-goal lead at half-time before Kane slotted past Werder goalkeeper Michael Zetterer from the edge of the box.

The England captain's landmark goal moved him above Jadon Sancho, who scored 40 Bundesliga goals for Borussia Dortmund.

Former Crystal Palace winger Olise grabbed his second of the afternoon three minutes later on the hour mark, before Serge Gnabry wrapped up the scoring with a curling finish.



The result ensured Vincent Kompany's side remain top of the Bundesliga with four wins from four. Olise opened the scoring in the 23rd minute as he sprinted on to a lay-off from Kane before poking home. The France international, followed that with two assists.

Gnabry added Bayern's fifth in the 65th minute curling a low strike into the bottom right corner.

Newcastle's unbeaten start halted by Fulham



In other Premier League games, a double from Diaz helped Liverpool ease to win and Man United drew with Crystal Palace

LONDON: Newcastle United missed the opportunity to move top of the Premier League as Fulham ended the visitors' unbeaten start with a performance full of purpose and intent, recording a 3-1 win on Saturday.

Fulham took an early lead when Raul Jimenez's sharp turn and finish, just 44 seconds after Joelinton had a goal for Newcastle ruled out by an offside flag.

Summer signing Emile Smith Rowe continued his fine start at the Cottagers by doubling the lead with a low shot which squirmed under away keeper Nick Pope.

Newcastle, who mustered only one shot on target in an insipid first-half performance, narrowed the gap through Harvey Barnes

within 28 seconds of the restart.

The home side had chances to restore their two-goal advantage in an even second half but did not seal victory until stoppage time.

Newcastle captain Bruno Guimaraes' woeful clearance went straight to Reiss Nelson in the penalty area and the substitute emphatically fired in to secure Fulham's second league win.

Newcastle drop to sixth in a Premier League table still shaping up on game week five, with Fulham moving up to eighth as their solid start continues.

Diaz double for Reds

At Anfield, Luis Diaz scored twice in two first-half minutes as Liverpool returned to winning ways in

the Premier League with an emphatic 3-0 victory over Bournemouth on Saturday.

Arne Slot's team, beaten 1-0 by Nottingham Forest last weekend, thought they had fallen behind after only five minutes when Antoine Semenyo turned in Justin Kluivert's cross, only for the goal to be disallowed by the video assistant referee for offside.

The Reds responded in ruthless fashion, going close through Diaz, Mohamed Salah and Darwin Nunez before Diaz rounded Kepa Arrizabalaga and slid the ball into an empty net to open the scoring.

The Colombian struck again moments later to double the hosts' lead, collecting Trent Alexander-Arnold's pass and firing through Kepa's legs from close range.

Nunez, making his first Premier League start since April, made it 3-0 with a tremendous, curling drive - his first top-flight goal since a 3-1 home win over Sheffield United over five months ago.

At Selhurst Park, Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag said his side "ate Crystal Palace alive" as they missed a number of

big chances in their goalless draw on Saturday. Fresh from their 7-0 EFL Cup win over Barnsley on Tuesday, Ten Hag's side cut Palace open at will in a dominant first half.

Alejandro Garnacho, who returned to the starting XI in place of Marcus Rashford, had an early effort tipped round the post, before Matthijs de Ligt and Lisandro Martinez were denied by the feet of home goalkeeper Dean Henderson. The visitors continued to pile on the pressure with Garnacho sweeping against the bar after being played in down the left.

The rebound fell for Bruno Fernandes, who was often the orchestrator of all good by the Reds, but his effort bounced off the turf before clipping the top of the bar.

"We should have won. In the first half, we ate them alive," Ten Hag told Sky Sports.

The point leaves United 11th and Palace still winless in 16th.

Other results: West Ham United 0 Chelsea 3, Aston Villa 3 Wolverhampton Wanderers 1, Leicester City 1 Everton 1, Southampton 1 Ipswich Town 1, Tottenham Hotspur 3 Brentford 1. - Agencies



ONE-DAY SERIES

Carey stars as Australia beat England by 68 runs

HEADINGLEY: England fell 2-0 down in the one-day international series against Australia as their batting wilted in the second match at Headingley on Saturday.

Having dismissed the tourists for 270, England's top order was blown away by Australia's high-class pace-bowling attack in a comprehensive 68-run defeat.

Will Jacks and Liam Livingstone made first-ball ducks and Harry Brook only four in his second match as England's stand-in captain.

Youngsters Jamie Smith and Jacob Bethell attempted a rebuild from 65-5 until Bethell looped a catch to depart for 25.

Smith continued to 49 but clipped Josh Hazlewood, who was superb alongside fellow returning quick Mitchell Starc, to mid-wick-

et and England were seven down still 112 adrift.

Adil Rashid and Brydon Cartse prolonged the game with 27 and 26 respectively, but by the time the hosts were bowled out for 202 many in the stands had already gone home.

Australia were grateful for Alex Carey's 74, which dragged them from 161-6 to what proved a competitive, if chaseable, total.

Carey, having been booed to the crease for his role in last summer's Ashes stumping of Jonny Bairstow, crucially put on 49 with Hazlewood. It was made even more remarkable by the fact it was Carey's first innings since March.

Australia can now clinch the five-match series with victory in the third ODI at Chester-le-Street on Tuesday. - Agencies



DRAMATIC VICTORY

Argentina defeat Springboks to keep Rugby Championship alive

SANTIAGO: Argentina secured a dramatic 29-28 win against South Africa to stop the world champions from winning the Rugby Championship title with a game to spare in Santiago on Saturday.

The Springboks, who would have secured this year's crown with a victory, raced into the lead with tries from Aphelele Fassi and Jesse Kriel before the hosts responded in impressive fashion.

Mateo Carreras, Pablo Matera, Joel Sclavi and Tomas Alborno each went over the line to put the Pumas ahead in hot and humid conditions.

Cobus Reinach scored a try just before half-time to reduce Argentina's advantage to 26-22 at the break.

Penalties from Handre Pollard and Manie Libbok lifted the visitors in front again, only for an Alborno penalty to put the home side 29-28 up.

Libbok had a late penalty chance to restore his side's lead, but sent his effort wide before Argentina held on for a famous win.

Springboks head coach Rassie Erasmus made 10 changes for the game, but would not blame the players coming in for the loss.



"The loss is not nice, but for some of the younger guys to experience this stadium and how Argentina loosen up the game, it will help them in the future," said Erasmus.

"It hurts a lot, I assure you. We have to point the fingers at ourselves, not just the players but also the coaches and the management."

The defeat was South Africa's first in five games in this year's Rugby Championship, which also includes New Zealand and Australia, but they remain top of the table on 19 points.

They are aiming to secure a first title win in the competition since 2019 and host second-placed Argentina, who have 14 points, in the final game for both teams on September 28. - Agencies

MG HS SUV embodies passion for exploration and spirit of adventure



Featuring signature elements such as the Digital Flame grille and Bi-Function LED headlamps, the MG HS exudes a sense of power and confidence

MUSCAT: MG HS, a dynamic SUV that embodies a spirit of adventure and a passion for exploration. Designed to elevate every journey, the MG HS combines sporty aesthetics, advanced technology, and exceptional performance, making

it the perfect choice for those who seek new experiences. The MG HS stands out on the road with its bold, striking design that demands attention. Featuring signature elements such as the Digital Flame grille and Bi-Function

LED headlamps, the MG HS exudes a sense of power and confidence. The 18-inch diamond-cut alloy wheels and vibrant LED delta tail lamps add a distinctive flair, while the aerodynamic silhouette and wide stance enhance its assertive presence. Mohsin Hani Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE remarked, “As a brand that continually pushes the boundaries of innovation, the MG HS embodies our commitment to delivering excellence in both design and performance. This dynamic SUV captures the adventurous spirit of modern drivers, offering a perfect balance of power, comfort, and cutting-edge technology. With the MG HS, we invite our custom-

ers to embark on new journeys and explore limitless possibilities, confident in the knowledge that they are behind the wheel of a truly exceptional vehicle.” Step inside the MG HS and experience a new level of comfort. The spacious cabin is crafted with top-quality materials, with over 85% of the interior wrapped in soft-touch finishes. Sports bucket seats with dual-tone styling and motorized lumbar support adjustments ensure an incredibly comfortable ride. The panoramic sunroof offers a seamless connection to the world outside, while the dual-zone climate control system tailors the environment to your mood.

The MG HS is equipped with a 12.3-inch virtual instrument panel and a 10.1-inch color touchscreen, providing an intuitive and interactive experience. With seamless smartphone integration via Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, you are always connected, whether navigating city streets or setting off on an adventure. The MG HS is powered by a 2.0-liter High-Efficiency Turbo Engine, delivering 230 horsepower and 360Nm of torque. With a top speed of 210 km/h and options for Super Sport and Eco modes, the MG HS adapts effortlessly to your driving style, providing a responsive and thrilling driving experience. For added control,

Lux editions come with paddle shift controls for a sportier feel on the road. Safety is a priority in the MG HS, which comes equipped with the latest technology to keep you protected on the road. The MG Pilot suite includes features such as Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Keep Assist, Traffic Jam Assist, and Intelligent Speed Limit Assist. The 360° Park Assist Camera and Blind Spot Detection provide additional confidence while maneuvering in tight spaces, ensuring safety at every turn. The MG HS is more than just a vehicle; it's an invitation to explore new possibilities.

SPORTSMANSHIP



Indian Social Club’s annual badminton tournament concludes

MUSCAT: Indian Social Club Oman’s O!Millionnaire Annual Badminton Tournament supported by Food lands Restaurant, Oman Express Restaurant, MBE-Official distributor of Yonex in Oman and Oman Oasis water concluded with a thrilling finale. The highly anticipated O!Millionnaire Annual Badminton Tournament, organised by the Indian Social Club Oman, came to a spectacular conclusion on Saturday. The tournament, which saw participation from numerous talented athletes across various categories, proved to be a celebration of both skill and sportsmanship. Sanjit Kanojia ISC sports secretary mentioned that the championship attracted participants from ISC members, different linguistic wings and age groups, making it a truly inclusive event. The matches were held over several days, culminating in an exciting final day where the winners in each category were crowned. The highlight of the tournament was undoubtedly the Team Championship final. After several rounds of fiercely competitive matches, ISC MKW Team emerged victorious. In a nail-bit-

ing finale, they managed to defeat the formidable Kerala Wing Team, who put up an impressive fight. The final was one for the history books, with spectators on the edge of their seats throughout. In addition to the team events, there were several individual and doubles categories, each with its own set of thrilling matches. Here’s a breakdown of the results: Open Men’s Singles Winner: Jinesh P Runners-Up: David Kennedy ISC Men’s Singles: Winner: Vinod Abraham Runner-up: D Hemanth Kumar Boys under 15 Doubles Winner: Sahil Ganesha Sheregar & Vivan Shet Runner-up: Imaad Ayman & Rian Saldanha Girls under 15 doubles Winner: Risha Saldanha & Sanvi Ganesh Runner up: Lavanya & Naiara Anthon Women’s Singles: Winner: Kritika Girishnair Runner-up: Safiyashakil Nar-mawala Men’s Doubles Premier Winners: Vishak Nair & Jithesh Pandian

Runners-up: Rajesh R & Noufal Men’s Doubles Open Winners Damodhar Shenoy & Mohammed Zakkeer Runners-up Jayaraj & Robin Sebastian ISC Men’s doubles: Winner: Dr. Rajesh Rajendran & Moncy Francis Runner up: Sundares S & Syed Mohammed U ISC team championship: Winner: Mangalorean Konkani Wing Runner up: Kerala Wing The event concluded with a grand closing ceremony, where the winners were awarded trophies and prizes. The chief guest Indian Social Club Chairman Mr. Babu Rajendran applauded the efforts of all the participants and emphasized the importance of sports in bringing communities together. The organizers also extended their gratitude to the sponsors and volunteers who made the event a grand success. The O Millionnaire Annual Badminton Tournament has truly established itself as a premier sporting event in Oman, and participants are already looking forward to next year’s edition.

EXPANSION

BankDhofar inaugurates its newest branch at Al Sawadi



MUSCAT: Under the patronage of Sheikh Walid bin Salim bin Saed Al Maliki, member of the Shura Council, representative of Barka; BankDhofar announced the opening of its latest branch in Al Sawadi- Barka. This new branch is set to serve the financial needs of the community, offering a wide range of banking services and innovative solutions. The opening ceremony was attended by esteemed dignitaries, officials, and members of the community and BankDhofar’s executive management members. Al Sawadi new branch aims to provide convenient, modern banking facilities with personalized services available to every customer. With the inauguration of this branch, BankDhofar reinforces its commitment to supporting the growth and development of the local economy, while

catering to the evolving needs of customers across Oman in order to activate the principle of financial inclusion, which is one of the bank’s important strategies. The design of the new branch is in line with the latest developments of the bank to achieve the highest levels of service excellence for its customers, including personal banking, corporate banking, trade finance, investments, and more. With a team of qualified professionals, the branch will assist customers with their financial needs, offering tailored solutions to meet their requirements effectively. BankDhofar continues to play a pivotal role in driving the economic development of Oman in line with 2040 Oman Vision. The bank’s extensive network of branches, ATMs, and self-service machines is designed to provide

convenience and accessibility to its customers across the country and remains committed to leveraging innovative technologies to enhance the customer experience. Over the last two years, BankDhofar’s branch network has expanded from 65 to more than 129 branches, ensuring that its comprehensive range of financial services is now accessible to more communities bringing banking closer to its customers across the country. Simultaneously, the bank has invested significantly in enhancing its digital channels, providing customers with a seamless and modern banking experience with more than 310 ATMs, CDMs, FFMs and MFks. The increased network is located, in strategic locations across all governorates of Oman, including major cities and towns in the capital and interior regions.

ROUND-UP

MODERN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SCIENCE

MCBS inks pact to promote sustainable e-waste management



MUSCAT: The Modern College of Business and Science (MCBS) officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Evergreen Gulf Recycling HUB (EGRH), a leader in electronics and battery recycling, to collaborate on promoting sustainable e-waste management practices.

This two-year MoU marks a significant step in addressing the environmental challenges posed by the growing global electronic waste crisis.

The partnership will focus on recycling and managing a wide range of electronic waste, including laptops, cell phones, network equipment, batteries, and scientific devices, as specified in the comprehensive list of acceptable materials. Through EGRH's advanced mobile app, users will be able to track their electronic waste and schedule pick-ups for recycling, ensuring convenience and transparency throughout the process.

This collaboration aligns with MCBS's strong commitment to environmental sustainability and aims to reduce the ecological footprint of electronic devices within the community. By joining forces, both institutions hope to raise awareness of the importance of responsible e-waste disposal while contributing to the circular economy by reintroducing valuable materials back into the production cycle.

Dr. Moosa Al-Kindi, Dean of MCBS, also emphasized the significance of this partnership, "this MoU represents our continu-

ous efforts to integrate sustainable practices into our campus and community. Through our collaboration with Evergreen Gulf Recycling HUB, we are setting a regional example for responsible e-waste management that extends far beyond our institution."

Dr. Said Al-Kittani, Associate Dean for Community Outreach at MCBS, expressed his excitement about the partnership, "we are thrilled to partner with Evergreen Gulf Recycling HUB. This agreement not only reaffirms our commitment to sustainability but also provides our students, staff, and the wider community with an impactful way to manage their e-waste responsibly."

Sheikh Salim Ahmed Ali Shore Qatan, Chairman of Evergreen Gulf Recycling HUB, added, "We are proud to collaborate with the Modern College of Business and Science in this important initiative. Our joint efforts will pave the way for a cleaner, greener future by effectively addressing the growing challenge of e-waste."

Evergreen Gulf Recycling HUB, headquartered in Oman, leads the region in advanced e-waste recycling services, including data destruction via mobile shredding units, while ensuring full compliance with recycling laws. This partnership will also enable MCBS to leverage EGRH's expertise in issuing Certificates of Recycling and Destruction, guaranteeing that all materials are handled in an environmentally responsible manner.

Asian Paints Berger unveils 'Terra' as Colour of Year' 2024 in Oman

The unveiling of 'Terra' marks a significant moment in the world of design and aesthetics, reflecting a deep collaboration between Asian Paints and global creative experts

MUSCAT: Asian Paints Berger, Asia's second-largest paint manufacturer and the winner of Oman's Most Trusted Brand, launched its highly anticipated 'Colour of the Year' for 2024 at a prestigious Colour Next event hosted at Kempinski al Mouj, Oman.

The unveiling of 'Terra' marks a significant moment in the world of design and aesthetics, reflecting a deep collaboration between Asian Paints and global creative experts.

Under the auspices of Sayyid Khalid bin Hamad al Busaidi, the event was attended by Pragyan Kumar, Chief Executive of Asian Paints International, Joseph Eapen, Associate Vice President of Asian Paints International and G Gopalakrishnan, General Manager of Asian Paints Berger Oman, alongside many dignitaries from Oman's architectural and design communities.

Each year, the company collaborates with a diverse array of experts—from architects to design-



ers, historians to sociologists—to curate Colour Next, a visionary forecast encompassing colours, materials, textures, and design trends from across the globe.

This forecast is a culmination of a yearlong research in changing societal trends and the reflection of designs, materials, and colours in context of these changes.

Since its inception in 2003, Colour Next has evolved into Asia's foremost authority on colour and material intelligence, offering insights that resonate deeply with societal and cultural shifts. This year, 'Terra' emerges as a tribute to Oman's rich heritage and natu-

ral landscapes, drawing inspiration from the rugged mountains and traditional architecture that define the nation. With its warm, earthy tones, 'Terra' embodies stability and harmony, making it ideal for creating inviting and culturally resonant living spaces.

In addition to the 'Colour of the Year' revelation, Asian Paints Berger also unveiled four inspirational trends for 2024: 'Soil', encouraging innovative material usage; 'Into the Deep', celebrating the mysteries of oceanic depths; 'Retro Futurism', blending nostalgia with futuristic visions; and 'Goblin Mode', embracing imper-

fection as a form of liberation.

Speaking at the event, Pragyan Kumar emphasized Asian Paints' commitment to enhancing consumer experiences through innovative design solutions. "Asian Paints remains dedicated to pushing the boundaries of creativity and functionality," he remarked. "Our mission is to offer products that not only solve consumer challenges but also resonate aesthetically and culturally. Through our ongoing research and collaboration with industry leaders, we aim to inspire designs that enrich lives and reflect a holistic understanding of global trends."

OFFER

Be one of 500 winners with 'Spend & Win' from Bank Muscat



Get a chance to be
1 of the 500 winners!

MUSCAT: In line with its customer-centric vision 'To serve you better, everyday', Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has launched an exclusive offer for its customers who use their Bank Muscat debit, credit and prepaid cards to pay on international websites and applications with a minimum value of RO 5.

During the promotion period, customers will get the chance to enter a draw to win cashback on the total amount of their transactions, up to a maximum of RO 50. There will be 500 winners by the end of the campaign. The offer is

valid until September 30th 2024.

Bank Muscat offers a variety of cards carefully curated to fit the needs of its customers offering a myriad of benefits, rewards and offers available throughout the year. The Bank is committed to continuing to develop its products and services in order to keep up with industry trends and create a memorable experience for all customers.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdulnasir Al Raisi, General Manager for Personal Banking, Bank Muscat, said: "The launch of this exclusive offer came as part of Bank Muscat's strategy to pro-

vide special offers that cater to the needs of our esteemed customers and enhance the use of electronic payment for a variety of purposes, including international e-commerce transactions. We are always pleased to see the positive response to the Bank's card offers. I would like to take this opportunity to invite our customers to take advantage of this special offer and be one of the 500 winners".

The Bank caters to the largest customer base in the Sultanate of Oman, offering a diverse selection of credit, debit and prepaid cards with perks tailored to the needs of different customer segments.

LIGHT DUTY TRUCK

Foton Aumark delivers perfect blend of power and precision for Oman's logistics needs

MUSCAT: Foton Aumark Light Duty Truck stands out in the logistics sector in Oman, delivering unparalleled efficiency and reliability for road transport. Powered by the renowned Cummins ISF 3.8L turbo diesel engine, this truck combines robust power with exceptional fuel economy, making it the ideal choice for businesses focused on cost-effective operations.

This powerful engine is seamlessly paired with the ZF 6-speed manual transmission, known for its precision and reliability. Together, they ensure smooth handling and optimal performance, whether navigating urban streets or tackling diverse terrains and load conditions.

A representative from Gulf Great Sands LLC says, "The Foton Aumark light-duty truck is a game-changer in Oman's logistics landscape. The truck is about transporting goods with confidence, knowing that every journey is backed by the reliability of a Cummins engine and the precision of a ZF transmission. This truck is designed to meet the demands of the modern logistics industry, of-



fering a perfect balance of power, efficiency, and dependability."

Available in two wheelbase options—3360 mm and 3800 mm—the 3-ton Foton Aumark is designed to meet various logistics needs, offering configurations such as cargo, refrigerator, light dump, and open cargo body trucks. Its advanced safety features and superior braking system, make it a reliable partner for long-haul journeys across Oman.

Built on a new platform, Foton Aumark is a versatile truck de-

signed for modern logistics challenges. It incorporates advanced technology to elevate the driving experience, offering superior safety and reliability. The truck's high load capacity, impressive fuel efficiency, and long service intervals up to 20,000 kilometres make it a cost-effective solution for businesses.

Foton Aumark's blend of power, precision, and versatility makes it a leader in light-duty trucks, built to handle the demands of Oman's ever-evolving logistics landscape.



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