



HM CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT-ELECT OF MEXICO

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Dr. Claudia Sheinbaum of the United Mexican States, on the occasion of her being elected as a new President for Mexico. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments to President Claudia Sheinbaum, wishing her success to achieve the aspirations of the Mexican people. His Majesty also wished relations between Oman and Mexico further progress and prosperity. -ONA



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MUSCAT METRO PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY TO BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR

A key Oman government official gave details of the progress and challenges about the ambitious public transport system in the country

Times News Service

LEIPZIG: A provisional study into the feasibility of establishing a first-of-its-kind metro in Muscat Governorate is expected to be wrapped up before the end of this year, a key official told *The Times of Oman*.

Hamood Musabah Al Alawi, Metro Project Manager, who is also Head of Railways at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, said the metro initiative will have a transformational impact on the city's future development, provided it is suitably integrated into an efficient public transport system for the capital.

"There is no doubt that an integrated, reliable public transport network with Muscat Metro as the backbone is a necessity now in Muscat. It's just a matter of what, how, how best we can bring that into reality," he noted.

Speaking exclusively to this paper on the sidelines of the recently-concluded International Transport Forum in the German city of Leipzig where Oman was inducted as a member nation, Al Alawi said the Muscat Metro project, first unveiled at a media brief-



EXCLUSIVE



“There is no doubt that an integrated, reliable public transport network with Muscat Metro as the backbone is a necessity now in Muscat.

Hamood Musabah Al Alawi
Metro Project Manager

ing by Eng Saeed bin Hamood Al Maawali, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, earlier this year, said the feasibility study will shed light on the future contours of this ground-breaking project.

"We are still at the pre-feasibility study stage, and one of the out-

comes of it is actually a road map of the project going forward. So we will have to wait until the study finishes because then we can decide how to better execute it, whether in phases, whether in one go - It will make a big difference!"

But he appealed for public understanding and patience given

the complex nature of the project, particularly as it navigates through congested, built-up parts of the city.

"A metro goes where there is congestion, so by default, it will go through a lot of interfaces and a lot of inhabited areas and where there are utilities. It's not going to be a 'walk in the park'. But these challenges (if left untackled) can cause the city to stagnate, reduce its competitiveness and productivity and so on."

To ensure that the outcomes of the feasibility studies are far-reaching, the Muscat Metro project team is collaborating with all of the stakeholders involved. Notable is the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, which is overseeing the implementation of the Greater Muscat Structure Plan (GMSP), a key component of which is the Muscat Metro.

Sharing details about the tentative milestones for the delivery of the initial studies, the official said the current pre-feasibility study is expected to be completed by around the end of this year. This will pave the way for the detailed feasibility and detailed financial studies, which typically take between 12 - 18 months. >A5

GROWING ASSETS

OIA's profits top OMR1.7 billion

MUSCAT: Oman Investment Authority (OIA) announced that its assets have grown by over OMR1 billion during 2023, reaching a total of OMR19.240 billion.

OIA achieved profits that surpassed OMR1.7 billion with a rate of 9.95 percent investment returns compared to 8.8 percent in the previous year.

This was announced during the press conference held by the authority yesterday in Muscat.

All the while, OIA continued its contribution to the State's General Budget, amounting to more than OMR6 billion between 2016 and 2023. OIA and its companies also created more than 1,300 job opportunities for Omanis, as stated in OIA's 2023 annual report.

This report reflects the principles and national goals of Oman Vision 2040, focusing on enhancing transparency, governance, and institutional performance.

Furthermore, OIA reiterates its commitment to having continued communication with society.

OIA focused on diversifying its foreign and local investments geographically and across various sectors to maximise

returns and minimise risks. It also brought an Omani angle in its international investments to attract value and technology to targeted local sectors.

OIA's Future Generations Fund (FGF) is responsible for the OIA's investments abroad. In 2023, it invested in 13 global funds operating across multiple sectors in the private markets sector. It also engaged in diversified direct investments.

Meanwhile, the public markets sector, part of FGF, continued investing in various countries worldwide, achieving an average return of 9.8 percent, surpassing the target return of 5 percent.

Among OIA's direct foreign investments is Electric Hydrogen (EH2), a company developing electrolyzers with higher current densities and lower voltages. OIA also invested in Hysata, an Australian company contributing to the production of green hydrogen, as well as Our Next Energy (ONE), a US company specialising in the manufacturing of vehicle batteries, electric vehicles, and energy storage systems.

>A5



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Oman takes part in World Cities Summit

1 The Sultanate of Oman, represented by Muscat Municipality, participated in the ninth edition of the World Cities Summit, held in Singapore. The summit's theme was 'Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Rejuvenate, Reinvent, Reimagine'. >A5

WORLD

BJP set to form govt despite setbacks

2 With BJP-led NDA poised to form government following results of polls, India PM Narendra Modi said people have expressed their trust in the ruling alliance. >A6

SPORTS

Nadeem, the pillar of Oman's T20 team

3 At the age of 41 years, Mohammad Nadeem is the senior most all-rounder of Oman team at the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup, co-hosted by the West Indies and the USA. >A8

GAZA DEATH TOLL

as of June 4, 2024

Deaths
36,550

Injured
82,959

PARLIAMENT POLLS

India polls: Indian rupee drops to all-time low against Omani rial

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Indian rupee is trading close to an all-time low of 216.70 to the Omani rial after the BJP government's below par performance in polls. The PM Narendra Modi's party fell short of exit poll predictions and the majority mark on its own, according to financial experts based in Oman.

R. Madhusoodanan, former SBI official and a financial expert, said, "The poll surveys had given higher numbers to the NDA, which led to the stock market rally and rupee appreciated against the previous close on Friday. But on Tuesday morning, when counting started, the results were not as per the expectations. Hence, the market reacted negatively and tumbled. Indian rupee also fell against US dollar and it touched INR83.55.

The exchange houses are offering 216.70 and the INR-dollar rate is expected to be range bound in the next few days and will settle depending on the formation of the new government."

Indian Stock Market

Indian stock indices witnessed



a bloodbath on the day the Indian Parliament results were announced.

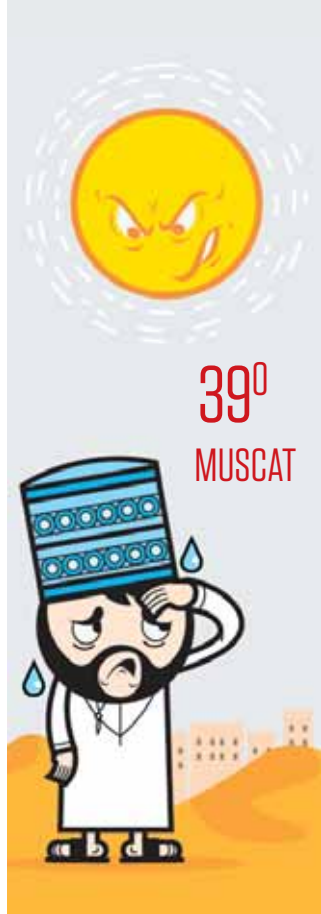
The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance led in over 290 seats while the INDIA alliance led on 229 seats, as per data from the Election Commission of India.

The idea of a coalition government lead by the BJP at the centre led to widespread market anxiety and a sharp decline in stock indices.

The BJP, which has been the dominant force in Indian politics for the past decade, is seen as a

pro-industry party whose policies have generally favoured economic growth and market stability. The failure to secure a clear majority to BJP of its own raises concerns about the formation of a stable government and the continuation of economic reforms.

At the closing bell, Sensex closed at 72,079.05 points, down 4,389.73 points or 5.74 per cent, while Nifty closed at 21,884.50 points, down 1,379.40 points or 5.93 per cent. All Nifty sectoral indices, barring Nifty FMCG, were deep in the red yesterday.



PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:10pm
Asr.....3:29pm
Maghrib.....6:56pm
Isha.....8:18pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....3:53am

Oman’s pharma factory to make medicines for rare diseases

The Menagen Pharmaceutical Industries Factory was opened in the Rusayl Industrial Area and built in accordance with Ministry of Health and FDA specifications

Times News Service

MUSCAT : With an investment of more than OMR20 million, Menagen Pharmaceutical Industries factory has been built on an area of 12,000 square metres.

The Menagen Pharmaceutical Industries Factory was opened in the Rusayl Industrial Area and constructed in accordance with Ministry of Health and FDA specifications.

The factory is also compliant with the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and is the first-of-its-kind in the Middle East to manufacture specialised medicines and medicines for rare diseases.

The opening of the factory, which aims to enhance pharmaceutical security in the Sultanate of Oman, was sponsored by Dr. Hilal bin Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health.

Dr. Khalfan bin Saif Al-Hasani, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Menagen Pharmaceutical Industries Factory, said that the factory will localise the pharmaceutical industries in the Middle East and North Africa, and is the result of diligent efforts, continuous work and careful planning.

He said that that the idea has become a reality with a vision and a mission that we seek to achieve.

Hamad bin Saif Al Hassani, a



member of the Board of Directors of the Menagen Pharmaceutical Factory, said: “The factory represents a beacon of hope and evidence of the collective commitment to improving the lives of patients suffering from rare and chronic diseases. It is the first-of-its-kind in the region, and will contribute to revolutionising the pharmaceutical industry by providing innovative and life-saving medicines. Pointing out that the total cost of the project is expected to reach more than OMR30 million riyals in the next stages.

Al Hassani added: “The establishment of the factory came to achieve a set of goals, including drug security, strengthening the national economy, creating job opportunities that contribute to developing human capital, and being a leading centre for scientific research, innovation, transfer of advanced technology, and attracting skilled minds, ideas, and competencies.”

Al Hasani praised the continuous support from government agencies working closely to advanced for creating an encouraging environment for industries, and cooperation between the public and private sectors to advance progress and ensure the achievement of common goals.

Al Hasani pointed out that the Foundation is working on a number of projects that will be launched soon, including a qualitative and unique project in the



field of cell and gene therapy, which is the first of its kind in the region, which makes it proud to be a pioneer in providing advanced therapeutic techniques targeting incurable and chronic diseases.

Al Hasani also pointed out that among the projects is the opening of the Ezz Pharmaceutical Industries Factory, which specializes in intravenous solutions and many other medicines consumed in the Sultanate of Oman. It will open in the last quarter of this year in Nizwa.

Al Hasani explained that the first part of the factory's name came from “MENA” in reference to the Middle East and North Africa region, which is the region in which the organisation provides its services and contributes to its economic and health development. The second part, “Gen” is an



kind in the Sultanate of Oman.”

Menagen Pharmaceutical Industries will produce medicines specialised in genetic diseases, metabolic diseases, hereditary blood diseases, kidney diseases, and the production of various types of cancer medicines, and will cover part of the needs of the health sector in the Sultanate of Oman and the region.

The factory contains a development and innovation centre, which is also the first of its kind in the Middle East and is ready to embrace preliminary studies and research and development studies. To reinforce this principle, a partnership was signed with Sultan Qaboos University, represented by the Centre for Medical Research and Permanent Cooperation.

This partnership was initiated through a feasibility study of the

EXPATS

Over 1,200 deported

MUSCAT: More than 1, 200 expats have been deported for various violations from Oman in May 2024, said the Ministry of Labour.

The Ministry, represented by the Office of the Joint Inspection

Team in the General Directorate of Labour Welfare, with the support of the Inspection Unit of the Security and Safety Services Corporation, arrested 1,725 workers and deported 1,260 workers.

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JOINT COMMERCIAL PROJECTS

Arab-German Economic Forum explores private sector cooperation

BERLIN: The 27th Arab-German Economic Forum kicked off in Berlin on Tuesday.

The forum explores means of enhancing cooperation between the private sector in Arab countries and the Federal Republic of Germany, notably in the sectors of energy, technology, innovation, trade, investment, tourism, culture, education and training.

The conference is organised by the Arab-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The delegation of the Sultanate of Oman, “Guest of Honour” at the forum, is headed by Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy.

It includes a team from Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), led by Eng. Hamoud Salim Al Saadi, Second Deputy of OCCI's Board of Directors.

Al Saadi said that the forum seeks to maximise economic relations and exchanging knowledge and experiences between the Arab and German sides, with the aim of opening up new channels of bilateral cooperation.



He pointed out that Oman’s delegation at the forum comprises representatives from sectors of smart cities, logistics, artificial intelligence, investment in special economic zones and free zones, tourism and supply chains.

For her part, Maitha Saif Al Mahrouqi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Federal

Republic of Germany, stressed the importance of OCCI's participation in such trade and investment forums.

She added that the Omani Embassy in Germany is ready to provide all necessary facilities to establish joint commercial projects in cooperation with relevant institutions of the public and private sectors.

Oman’s delegation participated in a panel discussion titled “Investment Opportunities in the Sultanate of Oman”. In a presentation themed “Invest in Oman”, the delegation showcased investment opportunities and areas of business in various sectors in the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

CAA

Civil aviation committee holds first meeting

MUSCAT: The coordinating committee tasked with regulating the civil aviation sector today held its first meeting of 2024 under the auspices of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Attended by representatives of civil aviation sector institutions, the meeting aimed at enhancing the advancement of the civil aviation sector in the Sultanate of Oman.

The committee discussed novel

ways to ensure better integration between regulatory and operational aspects of the civil aviation sector.

The participants looked into practical measures to implement the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 in line with the civil aviation law and Oman’s international obligations. They also exchanged views about modern methods of making optimal use of available human and financial resources.



The committee, headed by the Civil Aviation Authority, was formed as per Administrative Decision No. 1249/2022 and Admin-

istrative Decision No. 303/2024. It comprises representatives of all civil aviation sector establishments in Oman. -ONA

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10TH GCC CONFERENCE

Conference lays emphasis on occupational, mental health



INAUGURATION: HH Sayyid Faris Fatik Al Said presided over the opening of the two-day conference, organised by the Ministry of Labour. -ONA

MUSCAT: The 10th GCC Conference on Occupational Health and Safety kicked off in Muscat yesterday under the theme of “Welfare and Ideal Health at Work”.

HH Sayyid Faris Fatik Al Said presided over the opening of the two-day conference, organised by the Ministry of Labour.

The conference lays emphasis on the significance of observing occupational health and mental health at the workplace. It elaborates on the extend to which occupational health influences success and productivity.

The meeting offers an opportunity for the participants to exchange knowledge and expertise with specialists in the field of mental health, occupational safety and the wellbeing of employees. It also seeks to enhance awareness about issues of mental health at the workplace.

Through its 14 sessions, the conference reviews working papers on recent global trends in realising employee wellbeing.

The papers deal with ideal health measures, the impact of emotional intelligence on mental health and the role of innovation and technology in enhancing wellbeing at the workplace.

The papers also cover occupational health in the digital age and review successful experiences in local and international arenas.

The conference focuses on establishing a healthy and supportive work environment, as well as the role of information technology in devising programmes for promoting this theme.

The event targets executive managers, directors-general, operation supervisors and all other personnel responsible for occupational health and safety. -ONA

IN RIYADH

Oman participates in Arab Forum for Environment



RIYADH: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Environment Authority is currently taking part in Arab Forum for Environment under the theme “Restore Land to Build Resilience.”

Oman's delegation to the forum is headed by Dr. Abdullah Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority.

The event, held in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is organized the Secretariat General of the Arab League, in cooperation with the UN Environment Programme's West Asia Office.

It discusses four main themes, namely land degradation and regional and global environmental challenges, land and enhancing food and water security, the importance of environmental commitment in preserving terrestrial ecosystems, and international, regional and national initiatives to rehabilitate terrestrial ecosystems.

The main purpose of holding Arab forum for Environment sessions is to exchange experiences in relevant fields, identify potential cooperation partnerships, establish regional dialogue among stakeholders to discuss the current situation and anticipate prospects for environmental work in the Arab region.

It aims to provide a regular platform for dialogue among various stakeholders, including policymakers, international and regional experts in various environmental fields, while expanding opportunities for partnerships and possible cooperation among key actors. -ONA

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State Council discusses draft media law in Oman

The session was chaired by Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council

MUSCAT: In its 5th session of the first annual convening of the 8th term, the State Council discussed the Draft Media Law referred to it by the Council of Ministers.

The session was chaired by Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council.

In his speech, Sheikh Abdulmalik said that the State Council discussed in its 5th session of the first annual convening of the 8th term the Draft Media Law referred to it by the Council of Ministers in implementation of Article 49 of the Council of Oman Law. The session also reviewed a number of issues related to the work of the State Council, he added.

He also pointed out to the efforts extended by the State Council for achievement of the tasks assigned to it. He also appreciated the role played by the members of the permanent or private committees.

He also pointed out to the role of the Secretariat General of the State Council in providing all forms of support to the State Council.

The session also included a briefing on the Draft Media Law.

The session was attended by the members and the Secretary General of the State Council. — ONA



The State Council discussed in its 5th session of the first annual convening of the 8th term the Draft Media Law referred to it by the Council of Ministers in implementation of Article 49 of the Council of Oman Law.



ENVIRONMENTAL TOURISM FACILITY

Foundation stone laid for Telegraph Island development project in Khasab

KHASAB: Musandam Governorate on Tuesday celebrated laying the foundation stone of a project to develop the historical Telegraph Island (Jazirat Maqlab) in the Wilayat of Khasab.

The project is an environmental tourism facility set up by Musandam Governor's Office in cooperation with Musandam Municipality, OQ Company and the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism.

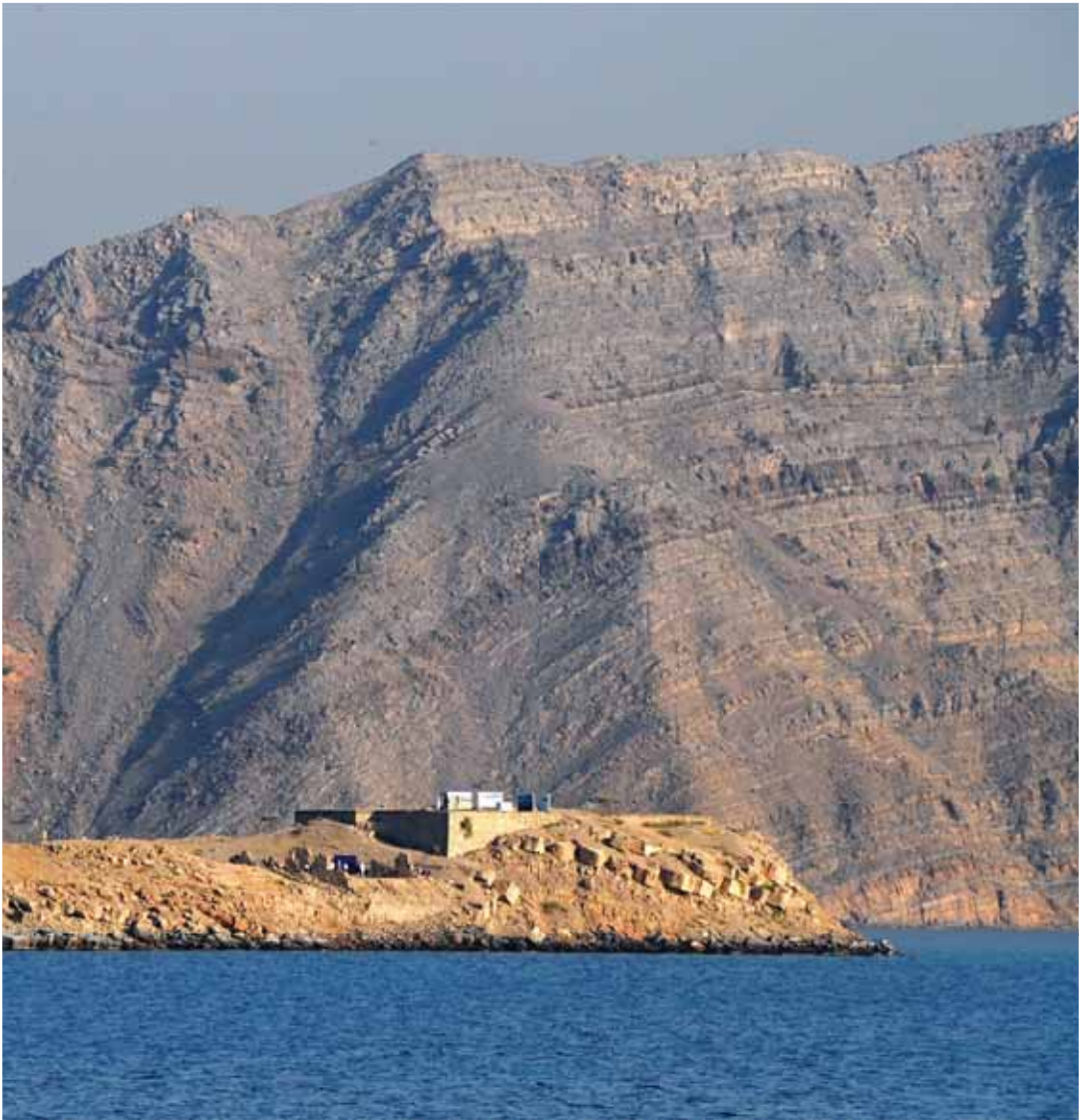
The ceremony was held under the auspices of Sayyid Ibrahim Said Al Busaidi, Governor of Musandam. The project includes the construction of a 731 square-metre multipurpose hall attached

to a 130 square-metre public service building, in addition to the construction of a sea landing platform (8x2.5 metres) and a mountain walkway leading to all parts of the island.

The project also includes the establishment of two photography piers overlooking the most important landmarks around the island, a shaded area, a guard room and a building for electricity generators and fuel tanks. The project assumes significance from the island's unique historical fame. The island was once an incubator for the first modern telecommunication line in the Middle East. It derives its

name from the sea cable extending from the city of Mumbai on the Indian continent to the city of Basra in Iraq. The island thus became a transmission station in 1864. The station was set up after written permission to the British government issued by Sultan Thuwaini bin Said bin Sultan Al Busaidi

This landmark saw the birth of the modern communications movement in the region. Thanks to its demographics, natural components and outstanding location among the maritime creeks. The Telegraph Island serves as an attractive destination for tourists and adventure lovers. -ONA



Oman takes part in World Cities Summit

The Singapore summit's theme was 'Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Rejuvenate, Reinvent, Reimagine'

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by Muscat Municipality, participated in the ninth edition of the World Cities Summit, held in the Republic of Singapore.

The summit's theme was 'Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Rejuvenate, Reinvent, Reimagine'.

The forum brought together capital secretaries, mayors, and specialised delegations from various countries worldwide to discuss how to achieve smart, regenerative, and sustainable cities for future generations.

It served as an ideal platform to showcase best practices, learn from the experiences of others, and develop sustainable solutions for future cities.

The Sultanate's delegation was headed by Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Hamidi, Chairman of Muscat



Municipality, who commented on the participation, saying: "Prosperous cities are those that maintain high standards of welfare for their inhabitants and can sustain-

ably provide these standards regardless of external conditions. To ensure the prosperity of these cities, we must ensure their ability to adapt to technological, social, en-

vironmental, and other changes. This was extensively discussed during the forum sessions, where we learned from the experiences of cities with rich histories and promising futures. We are striving diligently to make Muscat a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainably growing city."

He added, "This year's forum emphasised the strategic partnership between the public and private sectors in building the cities of the future. Both sectors must work together to achieve this goal. In Muscat Municipality, we call on everyone to collaborate to make Muscat and all Omani cities smart, resilient, and regenerative.

The forum's activities included various events such as the Mayor's Forum, a special symposium for young leaders, the 'Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize' award ceremony, and an accompanying exhibition.

The event addressed several key topics, including humanising cities, regenerative cities, smart cities, sustainable financing of cities, and future cities.

The World Cities Summit is a biennial event launched in 2008.

It has since become one of the most significant international events discussing the cities of tomorrow, attracting hundreds of global cities to participate, showcase their experiences, and engage in discussions about the challenges cities face and their ability to sustain themselves amid rapid changes across various levels.

His Majesty greets King of Denmark

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to King Frederik X of Denmark on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to King Frederik. His Majesty also wished the people of Denmark further progress and prosperity. — ONA



Oman, Sweden to boost bilateral ties



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Sweden reviewed bilateral relations and underscored the two sides' keenness to boost cooperation in all fields.

This came during a political talks session held yesterday between the two sides at the general Diwan of the Foreign Ministry.

Further, the session touched on several regional and international issues of mutual interest, including the repercussions of the Israeli

war on Gaza.

The Omani side was headed by Munthir Mahfoudh Al Manthiri, Head of the Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry, while the Swedish side was headed by Dag Juhlin-Dan, Director General and Head of the Global Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Moreover, the talks session was attended by officials from both sides. — ONA

STATE OF QATAR

GCC higher education ministers meet in Doha

DOHA: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, on Tuesday took part in the 24th meeting of GCC ministers of higher education and research, held in Doha, the State of Qatar.

Oman's delegation

Oman's delegation was headed by Dr. Bakhit Ahmed Al Mahri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of

Higher Education, Research and Innovation for Higher Education.

Several topics discussed

The meeting discussed a spectrum of topics, namely matters related to higher education and research.

It also approved several decisions and regulations in a bid to boost the march of joint GCC action in those fields.



GREATER MUSCAT PLAN

'Muscat Metro is extremely important'

<FROM A1 "The timeframe) depends on how detailed we go, based on the direction we get from either the cabinet or also the leadership of the ministry. After all, this is a very prestigious project — one that every person in Oman is looking forward to. It will be a great enabler to all of the major developments that we have heard about, Sultan Haitham City, the new Al Khuwair Downtown, and so on. So Muscat Metro is extremely important."

However, to meet the aspirations set out in the Greater Muscat plan, the Muscat Metro project should ideally be complemented by other means of public transport, the official stressed. At the same time, there should be concerted efforts to increase the uptake of public transport, notably by establishing a reliable, affordable and safe alternative to private cars, he said.

A range of challenges and issues will need to be tackled to promote the uptake of public

transport, such as metro services, when they become operational, said Al Alawi. Climate conditions, particularly during the hot summer months, need to be taken into account.

Accessibility to network

"Accessibility to the network is also another issue. Do you have to walk for kilometers until you get there? How fast is the network? Is it going to go through the same traffic jams like the existing roads, for example? There are so many

questions that the detailed studies will address."

In designing an efficient metro system in Muscat, the project team will also learn from the examples of successful metro initiatives launched elsewhere in the GCC. Metros in Dubai, Doha and Riyadh will be keenly studied, so will public transport initiatives in Morocco, India and elsewhere, he said, adding that the design solution for Oman's maiden metro will be essentially Omani in its essence.

MITIGATE FINANCIAL RISKS

OIA paid OMR2.4bn in 2023

<FROM A1 As for global funds, OIA invested in the Platinum Investment Fund, which focuses on the industrial, chemical, and distribution sectors; the Global Infrastructure Fund, investing in North America, Europe, Asia Pacific, and Latin America; and the Chinese Five Way Fund, which concentrates on consumer innovation, information technology, and life sciences.

Continuing its efforts to reduce OIA companies' debt and mitigate financial risks, OIA successfully paid OMR2.4 billion, including OMR300 million pre-paid in 2023. These efforts contributed to raising the Sultanate of Oman's credit rating by international rating agencies.

As part of its commitment to achieving economic diversification, investment spending in the local sectors of the National Development Fund (NDF) increased to approximately OMR 2.1 billion, surpassing the target of OMR1.9 billion. This was achieved through expanding and enhancing current projects, completing ongoing projects,



approving and developing new projects, and announcing the completion of six national projects in diverse geographical and sectoral areas.

Continuing the divestment plan to achieve various national goals, OIA and its companies successfully completed nine divestments in 2023, surpassing the planned eight divestments. These included both direct sales and public offerings on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX). This had a positive impact on the trading volume at MSX and attracted foreign investments.

OIA and its companies continued their steadfast efforts

to maximise In-country Value (ICV) and enhance the role of SMEs. The total amount spent on SMEs amounted to RO 202.6 million, with RO 106.7 million going to holders of the Entrepreneurship Card "Riyada".

Furthermore, OIA companies spent more than OMR42 million on services and products in the mandatory list during 2023.

Sheikh Nasser Sulaiman Al Harthy, OIA's Deputy President for Operations said that the authority generated more than 1,300 job opportunities for Omanis in OIA and its affiliate companies with a total Omanisation rate of 76.9%. — ONA

MEETING

Al Muselhi meets Kuwaiti counterpart

KUWAIT: Khalid Hashel Al Muselhi, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Administrative and Financial Affairs on Tuesday held a meeting with Sheikh Jarrah Al Jaber Al Sabah, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed relations and discussed several matters of common concern.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Saleh Amer Al Kharousi, Ambassador of Oman to Kuwait and some officials from both sides. — ONA

ANNOUNCEMENT

A well-known established Oil & Gas service provider of Oman having fixed assets worth about US \$ 10 Mn is looking for an agency either to assist in finding a financial partner on equity/loan participation basis ready to invest up to 5 Mn US \$ with new contracts or a buyer for takeover the Company as a whole.

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Royal Oman Police

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Royal Oman Police – Directorate of Public Relations and Security Information - announces to the owners of the detained vehicles and the relevant finance and insurance companies that they have to finalize the procedures of the vehicles detained in the detention yards of the Royal Oman Police that have exceeded six months from the expiration date of their detention, within a period of not more than fifteen days from the date of publishing this announcement.

The Royal Oman Police shall bear no responsibility or consequences after the expiration of the specified period.

Best regards

BJP set to form govt despite strong show by opposition parties

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by the BJP is ahead in 293 seats, while the INDIA bloc is leading in 232 seats, indicating significant gains for the latter

NEW DELHI: With BJP-led NDA poised to form government following results of Lok Sabha polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said people have expressed their trust in the ruling alliance for the third consecutive time and this is an unprecedented moment in the history of the country. As counting continues for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and leads favouring the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led NDA is poised to return to power at the Centre. In a post on X, PM Modi said, “The people of the country have expressed their trust in the NDA for the third consecutive time. This is an unprecedented moment in the history of India. I thank my family for their love and blessings. I assure the countrymen that to fulfil their aspirations, we will move forward with new energy, new enthu-



siasm, and new resolves.” “I express my heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to all the workers for the dedication and tireless hard work they have done,” the Prime Minister added. PM Modi secured victory over Congress candidate Ajay Rai by a margin of 1,52,513 votes in Uttar Pradesh’s Varanasi seat. Prime Minister Modi received 6,12,970 votes while Ajay Rai received 4,60,457 votes. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) candidate Ather Jamal Lari was in the third position with 33,766 votes. According to ECI data, the BJP has won 110 seats while the Congress has won 46 seats. Meanwhile, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by the BJP is ahead in 293 seats, while the INDIA bloc is leading in 232 seats, indicating significant gains for the latter, according to the latest trends. The Congress, which secured only 52 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, is currently leading in 99 seats, while the BJP is ahead in 240 seats. The BJP had won a majority on its own in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls, securing 282 seats in 2014 and improving its tally to 303 seats in the 2019 elections.

Setting a target of winning 370 seats in the 2024 general elections, the BJP-led NDA, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, contested the Lok Sabha elections for a third consecutive term in office. The polls were held in seven phases from April 19 to

Opposition celebrates stronger than expected showing in polls

NEW DELHI: As vote counting continues, early results show Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s BJP-led alliance is unlikely to win by the landslide predicted by exit polls. DW correspondent Adil Bhat said that had led to a mood of “jubilation, excitement and anticipation” at the headquarters of Rahul Gandhi’s opposition Congress party in the capital, New Delhi. “Congress and its alliance partners, they don’t have a majority right now, they are

June 1.

Rahul Gandhi wins seat The leader of the main opposition Congress party, Rahul Gandhi, has won a seat in his constituency of Wayanad in the state of Kerala. With a margin of more than 364,000 votes, Gandhi was able to keep hold of the seat that got him into the Lok Sabha (India’s parliament) in 2019. However, Gandhi is also running in a second seat — Rae Bareilly in the state of Uttar Pradesh where he leads with a margin of around 390,000 votes against his rivals. Standing in two constituencies is legal under Indian law, however, if he does win both seats, then he must choose which one he will keep and the other will go to a by-election. -ANI

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

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

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA



Congress to hold discussion with partners today

NEW DELHI: As none of the major parties has received a full majority in the Lok Sabha elections with counting almost coming to an end, the Congress party will hold discussions with its allies as well as “new partners,” party president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Tuesday. He said that the “fight” is not over, and they will continue to work for people’s rights and protection of the Constitution and democracy. This comes after the BJP failed to cross the majority mark on its own. According to the Election Commission of India, BJP is currently ahead on 239 seats. But, the overall tally of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is close to 300. Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, Kharge said, “I thank our INDIA bloc partners. Everyone campaigned for each other and worked. Our fight hasn’t reached its conclusion, we have to keep fighting for people’s rights, the protection of the Constitution and democracy, the nation’s development and safety on the border.” “The coming days are going to be important and we will talk as soon as possible,” he said. On being asked about the meeting with INDIA bloc partners, Kharge said that Congress will hold talks with its alliance partners as well as “new partners” who are “going to ally” with them. “Till we don’t talk to our alliance partners and the new partners who are going to ally with them, we will talk to them as well and see how we can make a majority. If I talk about all the strategies here, Modiji will become

clever,” the Congress president said. The Congress President lauded the party’s campaign and said they continued to raise the issues of the people, despite the “government machinery” working against them. He also said that Rahul Gandhi’s Bharat Jodo Yatra and Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra formed the foundation of the party’s campaign. “Congress and the INDIA bloc fought the elections positively, government machinery tried to create hurdles for us, our accounts were frozen, ran cases against our leaders. But, still, we continued to raise the issue of farmers, labourers, inflation, unemployment and misuse of central agencies. People in huge numbers joined us. Both the yatras of Rahul Gandhi became the foundation of our campaign. We gave our 5 Nyays and 25 Guarantees for our campaign,” Kharge said. “People realised that if PM Modi gets another term, the next attack will be on the Constitution and democracy of the country. It is fortunate that the BJP won’t succeed in their purpose now,” he added. Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) crossed the majority mark in early leads and is ahead on around 300 seats, while the INDIA bloc, defying all predictions is leading on over 230 seats. Most exit polls predicted a straight term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with quite a few of them projecting a two-thirds majority for the ruling BJP-led NDA. -ANI

LOK SABHA POLLS

Indian PM Modi wins from Varanasi

VARANASI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has won the Varanasi constituency in Uttar Pradesh, as the counting for the Lok Sabha elections is underway. PM Modi has defeated Congress candidate Ajay Rai by a margin of 1,52,513 votes, according to the Election Commission of India. Prime Minister Modi received 6,12,970 votes while Ajay Rai received 4,60,457 votes. Bahujan Samaj Party candidate Ather Jamal Lari was in the third position with 33,766 votes. In the state of Uttar Pradesh, BJP is ahead on 31 seats, while its allies Rashtriya Lok Dal and Apna Dal are ahead on two and one seat respectively. Notably, this is much lower than BJP’s 2019 tally, when



it registered a massive victory winning 62 out of 80 seats. The INDIA bloc has registered a strong performance with Samajwadi Party and Congress being ahead on 38 and 7 seats respectively.

Following the defeat, Congress candidate Ajay Rai, thanked the people of Kashi for their support adding that PM Modi had to face difficulty even in winning by a margin of 1,50,000 votes.

“Everyone has been campaigning for him and despite that PM Modi was trailing for the last three hours. He had to face difficulty even in winning by a margin of 1,50,000. The people of Kashi have shown that their support is with their brother (me),” Rai told ANI. Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) crossed the majority mark in early leads and is ahead on around 300 seats, while the INDIA bloc, defying all predictions is leading on over 230 seat s. Most exit polls predicted a straight term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with quite a few of them projecting a two-thirds majority for the ruling BJP-led NDA. -ANI

INDIA LOK SABHA ELECTION RESULTS

Mamata holds on to Bengal bastion, stops BJP juggernaut

KOLKATA: Bharatiya Janata Party’s Campaign strategy for Lok Saabha Polls in West Bengal failed to bring fruitful results as Trinamool Congress is leading on 30 seats in West Bengal as the counting of votes in the Lok Sabha polls is progressing, as per the Election Commission. West Bengal contributes 42 Lok Sabha seats in the 543-member Parliament. The Bharatiya Janata Party’s main focus was to dislodge Mamata Banerjee from West Bengal and even targeted the TMC government over Sandeshkhali, but the trends till 2 pm showed that BJP is leading on 10 seats. The Trinamool Congress is leading on 30 seats, BJP on 10 and Congress on 1 and CPI(M) on one seat, as per the ECI. As per the data shared by ECI at 2 pm, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) is demonstrating a strong performance across multiple constituencies in West Bengal. TMC is leading in Baharampur, Dum Dum, Jadavpur, Asansol, Birbhum, Krishnanagar, and Diamond Harbour. In Baharampur, TMC’s Yusuf Pathan has taken a significant lead, while in Dum Dum and Jadavpur, TMC candidates Sougata Ray and



Sayani Ghosh respectively are ahead. Actor-turned-politician Shatrughan Prasad Sinha is leading in Asansol for TMC. In Birbhum and Krishnanagar, TMC candidates Satabdi Roy and Mahua Moitra are leading respec-



tively. The most notable lead is seen in Diamond Harbour, where Abhishek Banerjee, the nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, is leading with a staggering margin. However, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is



trailing in several constituencies including Barrackpur, Hooghly, and Medinipur. BJP, during its election campaign, attacked the TMC government for corruption and indulging in appeasement politics. Referring to the Calcutta

HC decision scrapping OBC certificates, PM Modi accused Trinamool Congress of appeasing the “Muslim vote bank” as he also targeted Congress saying the “politics of appeasement is crossing every limit” and “Khan Market gang paap ki bhagidar hai.” Strict security measures have been implemented to ensure the smooth counting of votes for more than 8,000 candidates in this general election. Vote counting commenced at 8 pm today. Most of the exit polls have predicted BJP getting more seats than the TMC in West Bengal. The exit poll outcome was declared after the conclusion of polling for the seventh and final phase of Lok Sabha polls on Saturday. According to the News18 exit poll, the BJP-led NDA is expected to win 21-24 seats in West Bengal. The TMC is set to win 18-21 seats. India TV poll said that the BJP-led NDA may get between 22-26 seats, TMC 14-18 seats, and Congress to get 1-2 seats. The ABP News-CVoter exit poll predicted a landslide victory for the BJP in West Bengal. The BJP is predicted to win 23-27 seats while the Trinamool Congress is expected to get

13-17 seats. The Congress to get 1-3 seats. According to News 24-Today’s Chanakya Analysis, the BJP is poised to win 24 seats, TMC to get 17 seats and Congress to get 1 seat. According to the India Today-Axis My India, BJP will get 26-31 seats, TMC to get 11-14 seats and INDIA bloc to get 0-2 seats. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the TMC had won 22 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in the state, and the BJP won 18. Congress won only 2 seats. Earlier, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said that a “very robust system” has been put in place. “There are around 10.5 lakh booths. Each booth will have 14 tables. There are observers and micro-observers. Nearly, 70-80 lakh people are involved in the process,” he said. Results of the Assembly elections in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh were held simultaneously with voting for the 543-member Lok Sabha. Results of 175 Assembly constituencies in Andhra Pradesh and 147 Assembly constituencies in Odisha and results of bypolls in 25 Assembly constituencies will also be declared. -ANI

ISLAMABAD HIGH COURT

Imran Khan, Shah Mahmood Qureshi acquitted in cypher case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) acquitted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and party leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the cypher case, Pakistan-based Dawn reported.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb announced the verdict after accepting the appeals of Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi against their convictions in the cypher case.

The two PTI leaders are not expected to be released from prison due to Imran Khan's sentences in the Toshakhana and Iddat cases. Moreover, former Pakistan's foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has been arrested in recent May 9 cases.

Earlier in January, a special court, established under the Official Secrets Act, had handed both Khan and Qureshi 10-year jail sentences each in the case after Judge Abual Hasnat Zulqarnain appointed a state counsel for them, according to Dawn report.

The cypher case is associated with a diplomatic document that the Federal Investigation Agency's charge sheet alleges was never returned by former Pakistan PM Imran Khan, who long held that the document included a threat from the US to topple his government.

Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who is also behind bars, were first indicted in the case in October. The two leaders had pleaded not guilty. The Islamabad High Court had called the government's notification for a jail trial "erroneous" and scrapped the entire proceedings.

Earlier in May, a special court had started the cypher trial afresh at the Adiala district jail after the two leaders were indicted for a second time in the case on December 13. — ANI

US urges UN Security Council to support Gaza cease-fire deal

US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said that Washington sent a draft resolution to the other 14 council members on the proposal. The draft resolution would call on Hamas "to accept [the cease-fire proposal] fully and implement its terms without delay and without condition"



its terms without delay and without condition."

The Hamas said it views the plan "positively."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his far-right coalition partners that the proposal could be implemented while Israel achieves its war aim of eliminating Hamas.

He also said Biden had not provided all the details of the deal and that there were "gaps."

However, Israeli Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir of the ultranationalist Jewish Power party and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich of the Religious Zionism party have threatened to topple the government if Netanyahu agrees to a deal that doesn't involve eliminating Hamas.

Biden said the first phase of the deal would last for six weeks and include a "complete" cease-fire, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from population areas of Gaza and

the release of some hostages.

In a second phase, all other hostages would be released. A third phase would entail reconstruction efforts in Gaza.

The US president said if Hamas lives up to its commitments through the phases, the temporary cease-fire would lead to a permanent cessation of hostilities.

Qatar: No clear position yet from Israel, Hamas on truce deal

Qatar's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Majed al-Ansari, said neither Israel nor Hamas have given a clear response to a three-phase Gaza cease-fire plan that US President Joe Biden outlined last week.

Qatar, the US and Egypt have been mediating negotiations between Israel and Hamas, the Islamist militant group ruling Gaza that Israel, Germany and several other countries have classified as

On Monday, Egypt said Hamas had initially reacted "positively" to the plan. But al-Ansari said there was no "concrete approval" from either side.

However, "the process is progressing and we have been working with both sides on proposals on the table," he said.

UN rights chief decries 'unfathomable' West Bank violence

The UN's human rights chief, Volker Türk, has demanded an end to a surge of violence in the occupied West Bank.

Around 500 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank since the start of the war between Israel and the Hamas militant Islamist group in the Gaza Strip, according to UN figures.

The war started on October 7 when Hamas attacked southern Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking over 200 hostages.

In response, Israel launched airstrikes and a ground offensive in Gaza that health authorities in the Hamas-run territory say have killed at least 36,400.

"As if the tragic events in Israel and then Gaza over the past eight months were not enough, the people of the occupied West Bank are also being subjected to day-after-day of unprecedented bloodshed," Türk said.

"It is unfathomable that so many lives have been taken in such a wanton fashion."

He called for "accountability" for killings by settlers and Israeli forces.

"Pervasive impunity for such crimes has become commonplace for far too long in the occupied West Bank. Such impunity has created an enabling environment for more and more unlawful killings by [Israeli security forces]," he said.

"International law must be respected and enforced, and accountability must be ensured."

— Agencies

ART MUSEUM



teamLab Borderless Jeddah unveiled in its entirety

MUSCAT: teamLab Borderless Jeddah, a collaborative initiative between the Saudi Ministry of Culture and art collective teamLab, is set to open in Jeddah Historic District on June 10, 2024. Finally unveiled in its entirety, over 80 independent artworks form complex interrelationships, creating one borderless world.

teamLab Borderless is a world of artworks without boundaries, a museum without a map created by art collective teamLab.

Artworks move out of rooms, communicate with other works, influence, and sometimes intermingle with each other with no boundaries, forming one borderless world. As people immerse their body in this borderless art, they 'wander, explore, and discover'.

Spanning approximately 10,000 sqm of gross floor area, teamLab Borderless Jeddah, the first-ever teamLab Borderless museum to launch in the Middle East, will be permanently established on the shores of Alarbaeen Lagoon overlooking the panoramic views of Jeddah Historic District, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The tickets for the museum are now available on the official website

The teamLab Borderless Jeddah project is one of the Quality of Life Program's initiatives to develop and foster cultural and arts

exhibition infrastructure, aiming to strengthen Saudi Arabia's contribution to arts and culture, one of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 goals.

Toshiyuki Inoko, Founder of teamLab, said: "Jeddah is one of the leading global cities in the Middle East with a profound history and rich culture. We are very honored to be able to open teamLab Borderless in Jeddah Historic District, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This time, we have been able to launch teamLab Borderless on a monumental scale, with truly beautiful architecture in this wonderful location.

teamLab Borderless is based on the concept that everything exists in a borderless continuity. We want to create the notion of 'beautiful' in which the various artworks relate to each other and are continuous without boundaries.

teamLab Borderless is a museum without a map, where visitors wander and explore the vast world with intention, create a new world with others, and discover.

Our artworks are based on the continuity of knowledge over the long history of humanity. For this reason, it is very significant to be able to establish a large-scale teamLab Borderless in Jeddah Historic District. Through Historic Jeddah and teamLab Borderless, we want to make this the

most amazing place in the world, creating an experience where people travel between the seamlessly interconnected past and present, and feel a strong sense of meaning."

Abdulrahman Almotawa, Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of Culture, said: "We are immensely proud to open the teamLab Borderless museum in the heart of Jeddah Historic District. This first-of-its-kind venture, realised in collaboration with teamLab, is part of a new chapter for Saudi Arabia's cultural landscape. It is a revolutionary space where the boundaries between art, technology, and our natural world converge, offering a truly immersive experience. We are grateful to teamLab for sharing in the Ministry of Culture's dedication to fostering innovative artistic expressions that resonate both locally and globally."

"We envisage teamLab Borderless Jeddah as a dynamic meeting point, where visitors can explore uncharted territories of creativity and engage in a dialogue that bridges the Kingdom's rich heritage with contemporary artistic discourse. As the Ministry of Culture continues to work towards achieving the cultural goals of Saudi Vision 2030, we aim for the museum to enhance the Kingdom's position as a centre for arts and culture in the region and the world."

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SPORTS

Nadeem: The unyielding pillar of Oman’s T20 WC aspirations

The medium pacer and middle-order batter has been serving the national team for a decade with pride

Ashok Purohit

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS: At the age of 41 years, Mohammad Nadeem is the seniormost all-rounder of Oman team at the ongoing ICC Men’s T20 World Cup, co-hosted by the West Indies and the USA. The soft-spoken medium pacer and middle-order batter has been serving the national team for a decade with pride and has made important contributions in some of the memorable victories over the years in both the T20 and the ODI formats. Nadeem, who failed to make any major contribution in Oman’s opening match defeat against Namibia in Group B at the Kensington Oval on Sunday (Monday morning, Oman time), is now hoping to play a bigger role in the remaining games in West Indies. Nadeem could score only 6 runs in Oman’s total of 109 and did not get a chance to bowl during the Super Over loss. Speaking a day after the team’s



narrow defeat, Nadeem said: “Yes, it was a very close game, an edge of the seat thriller for fans around the world. We were possibly 20-30 runs short but we fought bravely to make a game out of it. Few would give us a chance when we finished our innings at 109. But this is what our team is all about. We showcased how strong our bowling attack is and but for few dropped catches, we almost won the game.” He added: “Defeats are always tough to swallow but the way we came back in the game against Na-

mibia give us lot of hopes that as a unit, we can fight till the end, irrespective of any opposition.” Nadeem, who landed in Oman in 2009 and have played for domestic top-flight club Assarain CT for long, made his T20I debut for his adopted country in 2015 against Afghanistan in Dublin. With a decade of service to Oman’s national team, Nadeem embodies dedication and resilience. He said: “For me, it was important to make contribution with

both bat and ball. I am thankful to Oman Cricket and national coach Duleep Mendis for his trust and belief in me. I am proud to represent Oman at the world’s biggest stage and this is my second T20 World Cup.” During his early days, Nadeem impressed with his speed and line and length as the Sialkot-born all-rounder from Pakistan clocked above 140km regularly. Of late, he may not have the same speed but is a smart cricketer with effective use of line and length. While he

has been used often as a change bowler, his batting skills have been more to the fore including his crucial and unbeaten innings of 46 during Oman’s historic five-wicket win over Ireland last year during the ICC ODI Cricket World Cup Qualifier in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. In the T20Is, Nadeem has played 53 games so far and scored 489 runs with his highest being an unbeaten 77 against Canada in 2022 while he has picked 30 wickets with his career-best figures of 4/23 against Jersey in 2019.

Nadeem is a vital cog in the wheels of success of Oman’s cricket over the years and is described as a “living legend” by his teammates. His batting style is simple but efficient, but what stands out is his ability to soak up pressure in tense situations and steer Oman across the line on many occasions. Fondly known as ‘Bhalli’, Nadeem has a gentle run up that belies the consistent 120-130kph pace he can generate even now and has an impressive strike rate with his success particularly achieved in the middle overs. Nadeem, who idolised and closely followed the journey of South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis, during his young days, is still passionate about his cricket. Looking forward to the remaining Group B games with the next match coming up against former champions and heavyweights Australia, Nadim said: “I am ready to put in my best foot forward if I am given a chance. At this level and in this format, there are no favourites. We can upset any team on our day. We have prepared well, and we are ready to take on the heavyweights.” Following the match against Australia on June 5, Wednesday 8.30pm (June 6, Thursday, 4.30am, Oman time), Duleep Mendis’ Men in Red will travel to Antigua to play the remaining two games, first against Scotland on June 9, Sunday, 1pm (Sunday, 9pm, Oman time) and then conclude the league engagement against the defending champions England on June 13, Thursday, 3pm (Thursday, 11pm, Oman time).

ICC T20 WC 2024

Nortje shines as South Africa defeat Sri Lanka by six wickets

NEW YORK: Anrich Norje’s outstanding bowling performance and some good batting display by South Africa led to victory over Sri Lanka in the fourth match of the ICC T20 World Cup 2024 at the Nassau International Cricket Stadium on Monday. While chasing a mere total of 78 runs, the South African side didn’t have a good start as they lost the wicket of opener Reeze Hendricks in the second over of the innings. The right-hand batter was dismissed after scoring 4 runs off 2 balls on the bowling of Nuwan Thushara. After the fall of the first wicket, the Proteas skipper Aiden Markram came out to bat. Markram was sent back to the pavilion after scoring just 12 runs in 14 balls with the help of one six. He was dismissed at a score of 23 by Dasun Shanaka in the fifth over of the innings. The Markram-led side completed fifty in 10.3 overs as Quinton De Kock took a double on the bowling of leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga. In the same over, the South African side lost the wicket of De Kock. He was dismissed after scoring 20 runs in 27 balls with the help of one maximum. In the 13th over, the Proteas lost the fourth wicket. Tristan Stubbs was dismissed after scoring 13



runs in 28 balls. After 13 overs, South Africa were 58/4 with David Miller and Heinrich Klaasen in the middle. The South African side chased down the total in 16.2 overs with six wickets in hand. The pick of the bowlers for Sri Lanka was Hasaranga who took two wickets in his spell of 3.2 overs where he conceded 22 runs. One wicket each was taken by Thushara and Shanaka in their respective spells. After winning the toss and electing to bat first, Sri Lanka was off to a poor start as after three overs of battling the tricky surface, Pathum Nissanka’s poor form continued as

he was caught behind by Heinrich Klaasen with Ottneil Baartman getting him for just three runs in eight balls. SL was 13/1 in 3.1 overs. Kusal Mendis and Kamindu Mendis tried to rebuild the innings for Sri Lanka, but the outfield was slow and the surface was tricky. The South African pace attack of Baartman, Anrich Nortje, and Kagiso Rabada, built severe pressure on the Lankan batting. At the end of the powerplay in six overs, Sri Lanka were 24/1, with Kusal (11*) and Kamindu (7*) unbeaten. The strategy of building pressure paid off as Kamindu whipped the ball in the air and it was caught

by Reeza Hendricks near the boundary, with Anrich Norje getting him for 11 in 15 balls. The islanders were 31/2 in 7.5 overs. Before the first half of the innings, Sri Lanka were spun in the web of Keshav Maharaj. The Proteas spinner removed skipper Wanindu Hasaranga and Sadeera Samarawickrama for a duck. Nortje also seemed to be gaining his rhythm and removed Kusal Mendis for 19 in 30 balls. Tristan Stubbs took a catch at deep square leg. Sri Lanka were down at 40/5 in 10 overs. Nortje got his third wicket by removing Charith Asalanka (six runs, nine balls) with Hendricks taking the catch. With a six from Angelo Mathews, Sri Lanka reached the 50-run mark in 12.5 overs. A brief 23-run partnership between all-rounders Mathews and Dasun Shanaka ended with Rabada cleaning him up for nine in 10 balls, with a six. Ther Lankans were 68/7 in 14.4 overs. Mathews’ knock also came to an end, with Nortje getting him caught for 16 in 16 balls (two sixes) by Baartman. Nortje’s fourth wicket reduced Sri Lanka to 70/8 in 15.4 overs. Rabada got his second wicket, as a top edge from Matheesha Pathirana’s bat was taken by Aiden Markram. -ANI

AIDEN MARKRAM

Incredibly happy and proud of him: SA skipper on Nortje’s winning spell

NEW YORK: Following his side’s six-wicket win over Sri Lanka in their ICC T20 World Cup match, South African skipper Aiden Markram lauded pacer Anrich Nortje following a return-to-form four-wicket haul, saying that he is massively loved in the changeroom and boys are incredibly happy and proud of him. Nortje overcame the blues of a disappointing Indian Premier League (IPL) season and turned up in national colours with a record-breaking four-fer, the best figures by a Proteas bowler in the tournament’s history, helping them bundle out Sri Lanka for just 77 runs. Proteas did face some hiccups too on a tough batting surface, but they chased it down to make a winning start to their campaign. Speaking about Nortje in the post-match presentation, Markram said that he was not worried about the lanky pacer and expressed hope that his form will continue. “Was not worried about him but a fantastic day for him, from a mental confidence point of view. He is massively loved in the changeroom, boys are incredibly happy and



proud of him, hopefully this kicks off a great World Cup for him,” said Markram. Also, Markram said on the win and tough conditions, “I am happy with the win. The batting was little up and down, probably speaks to quite a tough wicket and luckily we found ways to score on this. It was a tough one from a batting point of view, we try as much as we can to take the pitch out of it, we can take some learnings from it and we are experienced. Lots of different conditions as we move around, fortunately we have our next two here so we know what’s coming but it’s important to adapt as we go ahead.” -ANI

T20 WORLD CUP

Farooqi’s five wickets seal win for Afghanistan over Uganda

GUYANA: Fazalhaq Farooqi’s exuberant spell blew away Uganda as Afghanistan marched to a 125-run win in their Group C match of the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024 at the Providence Stadium on Monday (local time). While defending 183, Farooqi’s ferocious pace in the first over sealed Ronak Patel and Roger Mukasa’s trip back to the pavilion on two consecutive deliveries. He castled Patel (4) with an inswinger on the second delivery. On the next ball, he left Mukasa bamboozled with an inswinger and trapped him in front of the stumps on his first delivery. Wickets continued to fall like a house of cards with Mujeeb Ur Rahman joining the action in the next over. Mujeeb pretended to bowl a leg

break but deceived Simon Ssesazi (4) by pulling off a googly. Naveen-ul-Haq scalped two in the fifth over to reduce Uganda to 18/5. In the rest of the chase, Uganda’s batters struggled to pull off boundaries while Farooqi continued to be economical and rattle wickets. In the 13th over, Farooqi struck was on a hat-trick for the second time after picking up two consecutive wickets. With the second consecutive scalp, he completed his maiden five-wicket haul for Afghanistan in international cricket. Uganda eventually bundled out on a score of 58 in the 16th over and succumbed to a 125-run defeat. Earlier in the innings, Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran’s fierce opening partnership propelled Afghanistan to 183/5 against Uganda.



The duo also registered 154-run against Uganda to record the second-highest opening stand in the men’s T20 World Cup. Gurbaz scored the highest with 76 off 45

while opener Zadran smashed 70 runs in 46 balls powering Afghanistan to a fighting total. Put to bat first, Afghanistan openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and

Ibrahim Zadran took off in no time, taking advantage of decent batting conditions, where the ball came onto the bat and the outfield was good. Uganda gave away easy runs as the team failed in the fielding from early on. Gurbaz took the lead initially, but Zadran joined him soon after hitting four fours in a row in the sixth over. Afghanistan were going at 11 runs an over at the end of the first powerplay. The score of 75-0 is Afghanistan’s highest powerplay score in the T20 World Cup, bettering 64/2 vs South Africa at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai in 2016. The explosion of boundaries continued for Gurbaz and Zadran as the Uganda bowlers found the going tough against the well-set batters. Gurbaz brought up his fifty

in the ninth over, his first-ever in T20 World Cups, hitting four sixes and two fours on the way. In the 10th over Afghanistan crossed the 100-run mark. Going closer to 10, Afghanistan looked well set to score the highest score of the tournament. An eventful 25-run over from Bilal Shah, which included five no-balls and five wides, helped Afghanistan pace past 150. It was captain Brian Masaba who brought Uganda their first wicket in the competition, getting one to stay low and cleaning up Ibrahim Zadran. Alpesh Ramjani then removed well-set batter Gurbaz for 76 runs. Najibullah Zadran and Gulbadin Naib gave away their wickets too easily without scoring much. Afghanistan could only muster 27 runs in the last five overs. -ANI

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by August 2024 reaching \$77.78, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$4.07 from the price of Monday, which was \$81.85. - OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,783.21 points, down by 0.79 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.18 per cent at 459.14 points. Oman Cables Industry, up 5.26 per cent, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 6.10 per cent, was the top loser.

Private sector deposits of Oman's conventional banks rise by 9.7%

Credit to the private sector increased by 1.6 percent to reach OMR20.3 billion while their overall investments in securities rose by 28 percent to OMR5.7 billion at the end of March 2024

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Private sector deposits, which accounted for 65.7 per cent of total deposits with conventional banks, increased by 9.7 per cent as of March 2024 to reach OMR16 billion.

The combined balance sheet of conventional banks showed a year-on-year growth of 0.8 per cent in total outstanding credit as of end-March 2024.

"Credit to the private sector increased by 1.6 percent to reach



OMR20.3 billion while their overall investments in securities witnessed a increase by 28.0 percent to OMR5.7 billion at the end-March 2024,"as per the preliminary data released by National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Investment in Government Development Bonds (GDBs) decreased by 17.1 percent to OMR1.8 billion, while foreign securities increased dramatically by 139.0 percent to OMR2.3 billion, at the end of March 2024.

On the liabilities side, aggregate deposits held with the conventional banks increased by 10.2 percent year-on-year to OMR24.4 billion at end-March 2024. Government

deposits with conventional banks witnessed a decrease of 2.8 percent at OMR 5.2 billion, and deposits of public enterprises increased by 38.1 percent to OMR2.5 billion.

The nominal GDP, as per the preliminary data released by the NCSI, showed a decline of 2.8 percent at the end of the fourth quarter of 2023 over the same period of 2022. Despite the increase in the non-hydrocarbon sector by 1.7 percent, the contraction was driven by a decrease in output of the hydrocarbon sector by 11.9 percent.

As for the real gross domestic product (GDP), it demonstrates an increase of 1.3 percent during the same period under discussion. Similarly, this expansion was

driven by 0.4 percent of the hydrocarbon sector and 2.4 percent of the non-hydrocarbon sector. The Omani oil average price at end of March 2024 at \$79.7 per barrel was lower by 2.2 percent than that in March 2023. The average daily oil production at 998.7 thousand barrels as of March 2024 decreased by 6.1 percent. The Sultanate's average Consumer Price Index (CPI) showed a year-on-year inflation of 0.03 percent as of March 2024.

Other depository corporations (ODCs) consist of conventional and Islamic banks in Oman. Total outstanding credit extended by ODCs grew by 2.9 percent to OMR30.8 billion at the end of March 2024, with credit to the pri-

ivate sector demonstrating an increase of 3.6 percent year-on-year to reach OMR25.9 billion.

Non-financial corporations received the highest share of the total private sector credit at approximately 45.4 percent at end-March 2024, followed by the household sector at 45.0 percent. The share of financial corporations was 5.8 percent while other sectors received the remaining 3.8 percent of total private sector credit as at end-March 2024.

Total deposits held with ODCs registered a year-on-year significant growth of 11.7 percent to reach OMR 30.3 billion at the end of March 2024. Total private sector deposits increased by 13.7 percent to OMR20.2 billion. In terms of sector-wise composition of private sector deposits, the biggest contribution is from household deposits at 49.8 percent, followed by non-financial corporations at 30.9 percent, financial corporations at 16.5 percent and other sectors at 2.8 percent.

Meanwhile, the total assets of Islamic Banks and Windows increased by 14.8 percent on a year-year basis to OMR7.6 billion and constituted about 17.7 percent of the banking system's assets at end-March 2024. Islamic banking entities provided financing of OMR6.3 billion at the end of March 2024, recording a growth of 12 percent over that a year ago. Total deposits

held with Islamic banks and windows increased by 18.6 percent to OMR 5.8 billion.

Among the indicators of monetary aggregates, broad money supply M2 at end-March 2024 increased by 15.2 percent to reach OMR24.2 billion. This is attributed to the increase in narrow money (M1) by 9.2 percent, along with 17.5 percent increase in quasi-money (Rial Omani saving and time deposits, certificates of deposit issued by banks, margin deposits and foreign currency denominated deposits). Looking at components of narrow money (M1) during the same period, currency with the public fell by 2.5 percent, while demand deposit increased by 12.4 percent.

The weighted average interest rate on OMR deposits with conventional banks witnessed an increase from 2.124 percent at end-March 2023 to 2.642 percent at end-March 2024, and the weighted average lending rate increased from 5.381 percent to 5.563 percent over the same period.

Meanwhile, the overnight Rial Omani domestic interbank lending rate rose to 5.086 percent in March 2024 from 5.073 percent a year ago. This is an outcome of the increase in the average Repo rate for liquidity injection by the CBO to 6 percent from 5.323 percent a year ago, moving with the US Fderal Reserve.

FIELD DEVELOPMENT PLAN



Tethys Oil submits its first FDP for Block 56 in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tethys Oil has, through its wholly owned subsidiary, achieved a significant milestone in its exploration and appraisal activities by submitting its first comprehensive Field Development Plan (FDP) for Block 56, Mudawrat Concession, to the Omani Ministry of Energy and Minerals (MEM) for review and approval.

The FDP details the plan to develop and appraise resources in three discovered oil fields, the Al Jumud, Menna and Sarha fields, covering multiple reservoirs, the company said in its press statement on Tuesday.

The development of the fields is expected to be conducted by drilling several horizontal development wells. The surface development concept will be designed to accommodate future needs and will initially use a fast-track option with export via neighbouring operators, as was the case during the Al Jumud extended well test in 2023.

The FDP also includes a roadmap for a continued exploration strategy for Block 56's additional leads and prospects.

Upon the Ministry of Energy and Minerals' approval, the terms of the Exploration and Production Sharing Agreement (EPSA) for Block 56 will be extended to fulfil the commercial development of the discovered fields in the block.

The Partner Group for Block 56 consists of Tethys Oil as the operator with a 65 percent share, and the partners Biyaq Oilfield Services with a 25 percent share, Medco Arabia Ltd with a five percent share and Intaj with a five percent share.

"We are very pleased to have submitted the FDP for Block 56, a major milestone for Tethys Oil. We now look forward to getting the MEM's approval to declare commerciality and start the implementation of the FDP as well as putting the fields in production," said Magnus Nordin, Managing Director of Tethys Oil.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Petroleum Development Oman and Medco-Energi for their cooperation and support. I would also like to thank our team for their hard work and our partners on Block 56, Biyaq Oilfield Services, Medco Arabia Ltd and Intaj, for their valuable contributions," he further added.

Tethys Oil is an oil exploration and production company with focus on onshore areas with known oil discoveries. The company's core area is the Sultanate of Oman, where it holds interests in Blocks 3&4, Block 49, Block 56 and Block 58. Tethys Oil has net working interest 2P reserves of 21.7 mmbbl and net working interest 2C Contingent Resources of 15.5 mmbbl and had an average oil production of 8,818 barrels per day during 2023.

STATISTICS

Actual exchange rate of Omani Rial rises by 2.7%

MUSCAT: The actual exchange rate index of the Omani Rial stabilised at 116.8 points at the end of March 2024, constituting a rise by 2.7 per cent, according to the statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Initial data issued by the NCSI showed that broad money supply (M2) by the end of March 2024 stood at OMR24,242.1 million, constituting an increase of 15.2 per cent compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

Narrow money supply (M1), which consists of total cash outside the banking system in addition to current accounts and demand deposits in local currency, increased by 9.2 per cent to OMR6,583.8 million, compared to OMR6,027.1 million at the end of March 2023.

Total foreign assets at the Cen-



tral Bank of Oman (CBO) rose by 3.4 per cent to OMR6,699.6 million by the end of March 2024, compared to the corresponding period in 2023, when it stood at OMR6,476.5 million.

Meanwhile, private sector deposits in commercial banks and Is-

lamic windows at the end of March 2024 stood at OMR20,152.5 million, up by 13.7 per cent compared to the corresponding period in 2023 (when it was worth OMR17,731.8 million).

Total loans and financing in commercial banks and Islamic

windows grew by 2.9 per cent by the end of March 2024 to OMR30,762.5 million, compared to OMR29,899.1 million.

The average interest rate on total loans increased 3.4 per cent at the end of March 2024 by 5.563 per cent. - OMA

STRENGTHENING FINTECH LANDSCAPE

Bank Nizwa signs digital partnerships with Omantel and Oman Data Park

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a strategic move to further strengthen the Fintech landscape in the Sultanate of Oman and contribute to the nation's digitalisation agenda, Bank Nizwa, the leading and most trusted Islamic bank in the country, has signed two digital partnerships with Omantel and Oman Data Park (ODP).

These alliances, established during the recently held Comex 2024 and the New Age Banking Summit 2024, respectively, underscore Bank Nizwa's commitment to advancing Islamic Fintech solutions while simultaneously driving digital transformation across the local financial sector.

Khalid Al Kayed, Chief Executive Officer at Bank Nizwa, signed the agreements on behalf of the bank, while Sheikh Talal Said Al Mamari, Omantel's Chief Executive Officer, and Eng. Maqbool Al Wahibi, Chief Executive Officer of ODP, represented their respective organisations.

The partnership with Omantel is dedicated to integrating banking services into Omantel's mobile network, thereby enriching customer experiences with value-added financial services, and open banking initiatives through Omani



Fintechs. Moreover, it emphasises leveraging cloud services to optimise expenditure, enhance operational efficiency, and bolster cybersecurity measures. Meanwhile, the collaboration with ODP aims to identify and capitalise on opportunities for developing and utilising cutting-edge infrastructure and mobile telecommunications solutions to support Bank Nizwa's projects, operations, and associated personnel.

Commenting on the signing of the agreements, Khaled Al Kayed said, "Amidst today's digital revolution, Bank Nizwa stands as a vanguard of innovation, continually harnessing modern advancements in both IT and telecommunications. Our digital partnerships

with Omantel and Oman Data Park signal a new chapter of collaboration, poised to propel growth within the Islamic Fintech domain. These alliances hold immense significance not only for our institution but also for the broader Islamic Fintech landscape. By leveraging our collective expertise, we aim to tap into new demographics, drive cost efficiencies, and pioneer the development of ground-breaking products and services."

As a forward-thinking Islamic bank prioritising customer-centric solutions, Bank Nizwa's partnership with Omantel forms a robust nexus between Islamic banking and telecommunications. With mobile banking integration, customers gain direct access to fi-

nancial services via Omantel's mobile network, enhancing convenience and accessibility. Through the Mobile Wallet, Bank Nizwa leverages Omantel's infrastructure to ensure secure transactions, while value-added services like mobile takaful and micro-financing further help enrich customer offerings. Furthermore, cross-promotion and loyalty programs are geared at fostering engagement and a sense of community.

An essential component of the partnership is the collaboration in data analytics, critical for gaining collective insights from both the financial and telecommunications sectors within the regulatory norms. This collaboration facilitates a deeper understanding of consumer behaviour and empowers targeted marketing endeavours. This synergy not only expands market reach but also drives revenue growth. Pioneering a pragmatic approach to digital convergence, Bank Nizwa and Omantel, through open banking, seek to consistently co-create innovative solutions to address evolving customer needs.

In line with the same, Bank Nizwa's collaboration with ODP exemplifies its efforts to bolster its technological infrastructure.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Oman Cables Industry, up 5.26 per cent, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 6.10 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,783.21 points, down by 0.79 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.18 per cent at 459.14 points. Oman Cables Industry, up 5.26 per cent, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 6.10 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 516 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR1.54 million, with more than 7.89 million shares changing hands. Out of 43 traded securities, 3 advanced, 18 declined, and 22 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR79,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR62,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR18,000

worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,866.87 points, down 1.18 per cent. Prices of Oman United Insurance were up by 0.80 per cent. Prices of Ahli Bank, Al Madina Investments, Bank Dhofar, Muscat Finance, Oman Arab Bank were down by 6.10 per cent, 3.33 per cent, 2.55 per cent, 2.13 per cent, 1.92 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,949.70 points, up 0.38%. Prices of Oman Cables Industry were up by 5.26% respectively. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Oman Refreshment were down by 1.20%, 0.74% respectively. Services Index was down by 0.45% before closing at 1,791.28 points. Prices of Barka Desalination, Sembcorp Salalah, Phoenix Power, Al Batinah Power, Al Suwadi Power were down by 3.15%, 1.98%, 1.70%, 1.37%, 1.32% respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev . Value	Diff	Diff%
Industry Index	5,956.95	5,919.48	5,949.70	5,927.10	22.60	0.38
Services Index	1,799.44	1,791.20	1,791.28	1,799.44	-8.16	-0.45
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,032.42	8,917.79	8,917.79	9,024.73	-106.94	-1.18
SERVICES TR IDX	2,086.80	2,077.25	2,077.34	2,086.80	-9.46	-0.45
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	0.00	0.00
MSX Shariah Index	460.76	458.17	459.14	458.32	0.82	0.18
MSX TR INDEX	6,898.35	6,640.47	6,641.85	6,894.96	-53.10	-0.79
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,967.99	7,866.87	7,866.87	7,961.21	-94.34	-1.18
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,872.90	6,829.68	6,864.54	6,838.46	26.07	0.38
MSX 30 INDEX	4,823.89	4,782.21	4,783.21	4,821.45	-38.24	-0.79

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
7,890,074	1,536,952	516	24,396,447,726	3	18	22	43

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 4

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PREV VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	1,015	256	1	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.250	0.002	0.800	0.252	0.251	0.255	0.100	25,200,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	13,300	1,104	1	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.080	0.003	0.000	0.083	0.080	0.090	0.100	10,115,625
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,581,333	658,234	40	0.255	0.255	0.254	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.000	0.254	0.254	0.255	0.100	1,914,131,251
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	5,000	2,000	3	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.375	0.410	0.100	48,000,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	180,744	191,168	21	1.060	1.062	1.055	1.062	1.062	0.000	0.000	1.062	1.062	1.062	0.100	796,500,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	154,000	10,477	5	0.069	0.069	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.100	13,600,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	768,722	107,304	38	0.140	0.140	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.000	0.000	0.139	0.139	0.140	0.100	775,237,232
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	3,000	903	1	0.301	0.301	0.301	0.301	0.302	-0.001	-0.331	0.301	0.298	0.303	0.100	195,934,213
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	208,450	61,543	44	0.295	0.296	0.294	0.294	0.295	-0.001	-0.339	0.294	0.288	0.303	0.100	226,438,800
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	980,163	139,286	182	0.142	0.143	0.141	0.141	0.142	-0.001	-0.704	0.141	0.141	0.143	0.100	610,617,973
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	138,000	10,912	9	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.079	0.080	-0.001	-1.250	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.100	13,825,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	111,107	8,323	9	0.078	0.078	0.074	0.075	0.076	-0.001	-1.316	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.100	53,580,476
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	28,378	2,054	5	0.073	0.073	0.072	0.072	0.073	-0.001	-1.370	0.072	0.071	0.073	0.100	48,591,895
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	1,000	57	1	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.058	-0.001	-1.724	0.057	0.056	0.063	0.100	20,299,256
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	775,865	76,834	18	0.100	0.100	0.099	0.099	0.101	-0.002	-1.980	0.099	0.099	0.100	0.100	94,502,623
Total	15	5,950,077	1,270,454	378												
Parallel Market																
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	4,000	11,200	2	2.800	2.800	2.800	2.800	2.660	0.140	5.263	2.800	2.500	2.800	0.100	251,160,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	10,000	1,320	2	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.000	0.000	0.132	0.000	0.132	0.100	3,960,000
OM0000001386	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	1,102	46	1	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.042	0.042	0.046	0.100	2,625,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	475,500	41,289	19	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.086	0.092	0.100	17,922,000
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	10,047	944	4	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.093	0.100	0.100	1,541,046
OM0000003000	AIMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	503	514	1	1.021	1.021	1.021	1.021	1.021	0.000	0.000	1.021	1.018	0.000	0.100	70,448,000
OM0000003265	NATIONAL DETERGENT	1,000	750	1	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.000	0.000	0.750	0.675	0.750	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	2,196	635	3	0.290	0.290	0.285	0.290	0.290	0.000	0.000	0.290	0.285	0.295	0.100	23,606,798
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	146,300	16,093	6	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	246,064,834
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,850	318	1	0.172	0.172	0.172	0.172	0.172	0.000	0.000	0.172	0.169	0.172	0.100	9,460,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	500	60	2	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.117	0.120	0.100	60,972,426
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	5,117	6,908	2	1.350	1.350	1.350	1.350	1.360	-0.010	-0.735	1.350	1.350	1.350	0.100	67,500,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	631,473	104,505	30	0.167	0.167	0.165	0.165	0.167	-0.002	-1.198	0.165	0.165	0.166	0.100	33,492,764
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	73,976	4,292	7	0.059	0.059	0.058	0.058	0.059	-0.001	-1.695	0.058	0.058	0.060	0.100	84,830,885
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	131,852	20,441	12	0.156	0.157	0.153	0.153	0.156	-0.003	-1.923	0.153	0.153	0.160	0.100	255,419,730
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	34,891	1,605	2	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.047	-0.001	-2.128	0.046	0.044	0.047	0.100	14,128,731
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	46,054	6,894	2	0.154	0.154	0.153	0.153	0.157	-0.004	-2.548	0.153	0.154	0.166	0.100	458,441,770
OM0000009710	BARKA DESALINATION	6,900	849	1	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.127	-0.004	-3.150	0.123	0.124	0.125	0.100	9,388,206
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	132,434	7,891	16	0.059	0.059	0.058	0.058	0.060	-0.002	-3.333	0.058	0.054	0.066	0.100	4,320,000
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	50,000	4,512	3	0.092	0.092	0.090	0.090	0.095	-0.005	-5.263	0.090	0.090	0.095	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	59,054	9,094	2	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.164	-0.010	-6.098	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.100	361,847,250
Total	21	1,823,749	240,039	119												

MADAYN

Training organised on 'Primavera P6'



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) has organised a training programme on the application of the 'Primavera P6' programme, a tool designed for planning, managing and executing projects, with the aim of equipping project managers and

planning engineers with the necessary techniques to perform their administrative roles effectively. The programme aims to provide the participants with skills in preparing, planning, executing, monitoring, analysing and closing projects. Moreover, the programme focuses on mastering the use of 'Primavera' and learning its advanced tools, in

addition to the essential skills for advanced resource and project management, project progress monitoring, and communication with team members. The programme shall enable trainees to create their projects, add and analyse their components, manage project activities, allocate resources, and adjust project plans to align with growth phases.

EXPERTS IN

All Kinds of home automation/Integration like Audiovisual, Lighting Control System, CCTV/ Access Control along with product consultation & expert advise on the above being taken care. Also all kinds of Electrical installation & maintenance taken care with at most professionalism.

Contact:
93387263,
92839679

البعء الرابع الجديد ش.م.م

THE NEW 4th DIMENSION LLC

Email: newfourthdimension@gmail.com

GLOBAL SHARES

Stocks, dollar sag as data points to flagging US economy

LONDON: Global shares eased on Tuesday as investors considered the prospect that the US economy's "exceptionalism" may be starting to unwind as manufacturing activity there further weakened, in turn pushing the dollar to multi-month lows. In India, share markets sold off sharply after early vote counting showed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led alliance was not headed for a landslide win as predicted. The dollar skimmed its lowest in over two months against the euro and the pound, while U.S. government bond yields have retreated over the past six weeks, as investors have bought into the idea that the economy is slowing enough to warrant rate cuts this year. "It is understandable why the market behaved as it did in the first quarter, but if one looked at broader indicators, there have always been certain signs that maybe the story isn't quite as strong as might have been expected," Daiwa Capital economist Chris Seicluna said, according to Reuters. "Most people would have assumed that where the fed funds rate is right now is in restrictive territory. That is bearing down on underlying inflation and bearing down on some of the dynamism in spending," he said. The MSCI All-World index was last down 0.2%. Stocks in Europe also took a breather, pushing the STOXX 600 lower for the first time in four days, down 0.5%. US stock futures, the S&P 500 e-minis, were down 0.2%, suggesting a modest decline at the open on Wall Street. Wall Street ended mixed on Monday following soft manufacturing sector data and after a glitch on the New York Stock Exchange briefly caused trading halts in several stocks. Indian equity markets witnessed volatile trade, as vote-counting suggested Modi's party would secure a majority, but one smaller than exit polls had suggested. A Modi victory had been expected to be positive for the country's financial markets, according to analysts, on the hope India will undertake further economic reform. The reduced prospect of Modi's alliance winning an overwhelming majority rattled investors. The Nifty index dropped as much as 8.5% before recovering some of those losses, while BSE index dropped was down 5%. Both indexes had touched all-time highs on Monday. This week brings a slew of major data. The strength of the U.S. labour market will be closely watched in the new few days with the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) due to be published later on Tuesday. Non-farm payroll figures for May are out on Friday. "We're expecting a slight easing in demand for labour in the US market," said Raisah Rasid, JPMorgan Asset Management's global market strategist. "What does that mean for the Fed? I think all data points to one interest rate cut later in the year, potentially in December. If the data moves quicker than expected that cut could be moved forward to September." On Monday, US Treasury yields fell to the lowest point in two weeks, after the country's manufacturing activity slipped for the second consecutive month in May. The yield on benchmark 10-year Treasury notes fell 2 basis points to 4.381%, while the two-



year yield, which rises with traders' expectations of higher Fed fund rates, fell 1 bps to 4.8058%. "The sharper move at the long-end is a sign that weaker manufacturing data is unlikely to shift the dial on Fed rate cuts near term, but is perhaps a signal of the market's view of neutral interest rates as US economic exceptionalism fades," Westpac economist Jameson Coombs said in a note on Tuesday. In Europe, investors expect the European Central Bank on Thursday to cut the benchmark rate by 25 basis points to 3.75%. The dollar fell 0.4% against the yen to 155.39, around its lowest for two weeks and nearly 3% down from late April's multi-year high at 160.03. The euro was



St. Moritz:

The Ultimate Luxury in Snow



Times News Service

MUSCAT: St. Moritz, the luxury alpine resort town in Switzerland's Engadin valley, is a premier destination for winter tourism and has twice hosted the Winter Olympics. Known for its mineral springs discovered 3,000 years ago, it initially gained fame as a summer spa resort. Today, St. Moritz offers a unique blend of history and modern luxury, hosting events such as polo, cricket, and horse racing on its frozen lake.

Grand Hotel des Bains Kempinski

Set in an iconic 1864 building, the Grand Hotel des Bains Kempinski epitomizes European luxury and excellent service in the Swiss Alps. Situated at the foot of the Signalbahn and Hahnensee piste, this five-star hotel is renowned for its world-class events and breathtaking mountain views, providing an ideal retreat close to nature.

Bio Harmonising Retreat

Scheduled for 5-15 September 2024 and 9-19 January 2025, the Bio Harmonising Retreat at the Grand Hotel des Bains Kempinski offers a transformative journey towards peak vitality. Building on the success of last year's Key Longevity Retreat, this exclusive event won the prestigious Health and Wellness Award at the Hospitality Awards 2023 for its pioneering approach to wellness.

Transformative Wellness Experience

Led by Longevity Chef Silvena

Rowe and Sleep Expert Dr. Alexander Zeuke, participants will embark on a journey tailored to their unique genetic makeup. The retreat features personalised nutrition, fitness regimes, and stress management strategies designed to harmonise with each guest's DNA. Key highlights include:

- Personalised Wellness Plans: Based on individual DNA analysis.
- Culinary Masterpieces: Created by Chef Rowe, focusing on superfoods and anti-inflammatory ingredients.
- Medical Insights and Seminars: Covering mental wellness and restorative sleep practices.
- Flexible Durations: Starting from three nights/four days.

Expert Guides

- Chef Silvena Rowe: A Dubai-based culinary virtuoso and global MasterChef judge, known for her expertise in nutrigenomics and anti-ageing nutrition.
- Dr. Alexander Zeuke: A visionary in preventive medicine with over two decades of expertise, focusing on chronic disease prevention, sleep optimisation, and stress management.

Embrace Vitality

Starting from CHF 6,720, the Bio Harmonising Retreat at the Grand Hotel des Bains Kempinski offers a unique blend of luxury and health. For bookings and further information, contact +41 81 838 30 65 or <https://www.kempinski.com/en/grand-hotel-des-bains/alpine-spa/spa-treatments/bio-harmonising-retreat>



SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Vinicius Jr deserves Ballon d’Or: Neymar

RIO DE JANEIRO: Neymar has backed Vinicius Junior to win this year’s Ballon d’Or after the Real Madrid forward played a leading role in his club’s UEFA Champions League and La Liga triumphs.

Vinicius was named the Champions League’s player of the season after scoring six goals and assisting five in 10 matches.

The 23-year-old also netted 15 times and provided six assists in 26 La Liga appearances in 2023-2024.

“We have a wonderful relationship, I love Vini,” Neymar said during a fundraising event for his Neymar Institute in Sao Paulo on Monday.

“He’s a great friend that football has given me and he had a great season, he played so well. I’ll definitely be rooting for him to win the Ballon d’Or, I don’t think there’s any other player that has matched him.”

Neymar also spoke of his frustration at spending months on the sidelines as he recovers from a serious knee injury.

Al Hilal star has not played since suffering a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament and meniscus of his left knee in October.

He will miss the Copa America in the United States from June 20 to July 14 and is not expected to resume playing until at least August or September.

“It’s difficult to put the pain I’ve felt these last few months into words,” Neymar said. “I had my ACL and meniscus torn in five parts, so it was a very serious injury. But I’ve been able to spend more time with my children, family and friends. It’s an injury that affects more than just the knee because it’s mentally very challenging.”

“I had bouts of sadness and anguish for being away from the game for so long. I’m thankful to my family and friends for helping to get me through it.” -Xinhua

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Maresca replaces Pochettino as new Chelsea FC manager



LONDON: English Premier League club Chelsea FC appointed Leicester manager Enzo Maresca as the new manager of the team on a five-year contract with the option of an extra year on Monday.

Maresca replaces Mauricio Pochettino who left the club after the completion of the 2023-24 Premier League season.

In Pochettino’s sole season, Chelsea endured a turbulent season and managed to finish in the sixth position.

The Blues accumulated a total of 63 points with 18 wins, nine draws, and 11 defeats.

“We are thrilled to welcome Enzo into the Chelsea family. We look forward to supporting him and the rest of the sporting team

Djokovic survives five-set thriller to beat Cerundolo



The Serbian appeared to be out of the match against Francisco Cerundolo after trailing by two sets and a break, but he rallied to win 6-1, 5-7, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3

PARIS: The 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic performed even better at the French Open 2024 --Roland Garros -- in the fourth-round clash, keeping his dreams of remaining World No.1 alive.

The Serbian appeared to be out of the match against Francisco Cerundolo after trailing by two sets and a break, but he rallied to win 6-1, 5-7, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

The 37-year-old defeated Lorenzo Musetti in five sets in the third round, which ended at 3:07 a.m. on Sunday morning. The Serbian followed up his amazing triumph with another epic effort against Cerundolo, winning back-to-back five-set matches for the first time since reaching the final at Roland Garros in 2012.

“Again a big, big, big thank you because once again like the last match, the win is your win,” Djokovic told the crowd in his on-court interview as quoted by ATP.

Despite the late finish against Musetti, Djokovic appeared fresh in the first set against Cerundolo in the pair’s maiden ATP Head-2Head match. However, the top



seed strained his knee at the start of the second set, limiting his movement in the second and third sets, and the Serbian appeared to be on his way out when he trailed 2-4 in the fourth.

“I started feeling the pain [in set two] and asked for the physio treatment and the medical time-out and tried to take care of it. It did disrupt me definitely in play. For two sets, two sets and a half, I didn’t want to stay in the rally too

long. Every time he would make sudden drop shots or change directions, I would not be feeling comfortable to do the running,” he added.

“At one point I didn’t know, to be honest, whether I should continue or not with what’s happening,” said the 24-time major champion.

Djokovic, however, refused to give up, breaking back to level at 4-4 before locking in at the finish of the set to force a decider

in front of a loud crowd on Court Philippe-Chatrier.

The top seed found his best form in the fifth set. He won in four hours and 39 minutes after squandering a break advantage and falling behind 2-1. Djokovic’s 370th major triumph vaults him into top place in Grand Slam victories.

Djokovic has made it to the quarterfinals in Paris 15 times in a row and 18 times in total. The sev-

en-time Nitto ATP Finals champion, who has won the clay-court major three times, will next face either Ruud or Taylor Fritz.

Djokovic is aiming a record-extending 25th major title and must reach the final to maintain his lead in the PIF ATP Rankings at the end of the event. If second seed Sinner advances to the title match, he will become the 29th player in history (since 1973) to reach No.1. -ANI

SPANISH CLUB

France soccer captain Kylian Mbappe leaves PSG, joins Real Madrid

PARIS : After years of speculation, France soccer captain Kylian Mbappe joined the Spanish club, Real Madrid as a free agent on a five-year contract on Monday.

The 25-year-old World Cup winner with France joins a Madrid team that is already loaded with talent and still celebrating its latest European triumph, leaving Paris Saint-Germain (PSG).

“Real Madrid CF and Kylian Mbappe have reached an agreement under which he will become a Real Madrid player for the next five seasons,” Real Madrid said in an official statement.

Just two days ago, Madrid won a record-extending 15th European Cup title when it beat Borussia Dortmund 2-0 in the Champions League final in London.

The French striker expressed his feelings after joining the Los Blancos side.

“A dream come true. So happy and proud to join the club of my dreams, Real Madrid. Nobody can understand how excited I am right now. Can’t wait to see you, Madridistas, and thanks for your unbelievable support. Hala Madrid!” Mbappe was quoted as saying by Sky Sports.

Mbappe joined PSG from AS Monaco in 2017, following that he has played 290 matches for the Paris club and scored 243 goals. The French striker was 19 years old when he left his childhood club for PSG.



In the ongoing season of the Ligue 1, the Frenchman appeared in 19 matches and got the back of the net 20 times. He also made 4 assists in the French league.

However, Mbappe never hid

from accepting that his dream was to play for the 14-time UEFA Champions League (UCL) winner Real Madrid.

For the last several years, the Los Blancos have been trying to

bring him to Madrid, but Mbappe wasn’t keen on an exit before the expiration of his contract.

In 2021, Real Madrid went all out to sign Mbappe, offering 220 million Euros. -ANI

WINNING RUNS

Norway Chess: R Praggnanandhaa defeats world champion Ding Liren

STAVANGER: R Praggnanandhaa continued his winning runs as he upset world champion Ding Liren in the armageddon game at the Norway Chess Tournament.

Praggnanandhaa’s victory came after he defeated higher-ranked players including Magnus Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana earlier in the competition.

Ding Liren fell in the armageddon game, allowing the young Indian prodigy to secure another high-profile triumph, despite drawing with Praggnanandhaa in

the traditional game.

Praggnanandhaa has recently made headlines by defeating Magnus Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana in quick succession.

However, world champion Ding Liren’s death demonstrated that he was far from finished slaying giants.

Hikaru Nakamura moved closer to tournament leader Magnus Carlsen in another nail-biting battle. Nakamura won the armageddon thriller on time, closing the gap to just half a point behind

Carlsen.

The match between Fabiano Caruana and Alireza Firouzja was a roller coaster of emotions.

Caruana’s brave knight sacrifice almost backfired, but he managed to salvage a draw in the classical game. However, Firouzja dominated the Armageddon game, leaving Caruana with no chance of recovery.

Recently Praggnanandhaa has been the recipient of effusive praise from several quarters for his prowess on 64 squares. Adani

Group chairman Gautam Adani lauded Indian teen chess sensation R Praggnanandhaa following his stunning victory over world number one Magnus Carlsen in classical chess, while chairman of Mahindra Group, Anand Mahindra, also praised Prag.

Earlier, after his victory at the FIDE World Cup, Prag was praised by former World Champion and Chess icon Gary Kasparov who said Prag had been very tenacious in difficult positions.

-ANI



IN PICTURES



7th China Trade Fair Indonesia 2024 kicks off in Jakarta
People visit the China Trade Fair Indonesia 2024 at the Jakarta International Expo in Jakarta, Indonesia. *Xinhua*



Posidonia shipping exhibition features China's impressive comeback
People visit a booth of a China's company at Posidonia 2024 international shipping exhibition in Athens, Greece. *Xinhua*



World Otter Day celebrated in Singapore
Smooth-coated otters are seen in Singapore's Marina Bay Promenade. *Xinhua*



Janhvi Kapoor at a promotional event for her movie 'Mr. & Mrs. Mahi'
Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor speaks during a promotional event for her upcoming movie 'Mr. & Mrs. Mahi', in Jaipur. *ANI Photo*



Turkish consumers' patience wears thin as inflation peaks at 75%
People shop at a market in Ankara, Türkiye. *Xinhua*



Photocall for film Anora at 77th Cannes Film Festival
Director Sean Baker (third from left) and cast members pose with the 'Palme D'Or' Award for 'Anora' during a photocall during the Closing Ceremony at the 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. *Xinhua*

ROUND-UP

Travel now and pay later with Alizz Islamic Bank

The travel finance offer is open to Omanis and resident expatriates, subject to simple documentation and facilitated procedures and approvals, and covers 100% of the service value

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank announced the launch of a travel finance offer to help customers enjoy their summer vacations in any country of their choice, with easy payment options that include a grace period of 2 months and availability of travel finance with post-dated cheques (PDCs). This offer is effective from June 3 until August 29. The travel finance offer is open



to Omanis and resident expatriates, subject to simple documentation and facilitated procedures and approvals, and covers 100% of the service value. It is available at a competitive financing profit rate with a maximum payment period of 2 years and is available to salaried and non-salaried customers of the bank with a maximum finance amount of OMR10,000. Speaking about the summer travel finance campaign, Saif Al Barwani, Head of Retail Products at Alizz Islamic Bank said "At Alizz Islamic Bank we are keen to ensure that our customers have a unique experience through the

various benefits and facilities that we constantly launch. "The summer travel finance campaign was designed to meet the needs of our customers and their families during the upcoming travel season and our team has worked diligently to make Alizz Islamic Bank the first option for those seeking Sharia-compliant banking solutions." Travel Finance is based on the Sharia principle of 'Service Ijarah' which is approved by the Sharia Supervisory Board (SSB). To enjoy this offer, the customer has to just visit any travel agency and request for a quotation which he/she has to hand over to any of the bank's

branch and the finance application will be completed swiftly. Alizz Islamic Bank is proud to give its customers Sharia-compliant personal finance 'Service Ijarah' to enhance their life and help them reach their goals. It is designed to help them meet their needs, be it travel, medical expenses, school fees, marriage expenses or any other services, at the most competitive prices. With 'Service Ijarah', the bank will have an 'agreement' with the service provider, whereby the bank purchases the services required by the customer directly from the service provider and sub-leases it to the customer.

ACHIEVEMENT

Noticeable increase in students receiving training placements in Eidaad programme

MUSCAT: Students from Dhofar University have successfully secured competitive placements at the national level in the Eidaad programme. Their participation stands out amid strong competition from hundreds of applicants from universities and higher institutes across Oman. This achievement reflects the university's commitment to enhancing the quality of education through rigorous standards, aiming to qualify students and provide them with training opportunities that develop their scientific and practical skills. This initiative represents an important step in improving education and motivating young people to achieve their academic and professional goals. The programme offers diverse educational experiences and training in multiple specialisations, contributing to the acquisition of professional skills, understanding of organisational behaviour, adaptability to work



environments, overcoming professional challenges, and refining personal skills. These attributes are expected to lead to significant success for the Eidaad Programme. Eidaad is an educational initiative that aims to narrow the gap between industry & academia by establishing an internship programme that lasts for one academic year which will enable students to engage in a longer period of applied learning aligned with the industry's future needs. Eidaad also provides

a platform that facilitates and promotes partnership and intellectual exchange between academia and industry. This programme provides an opportunity for university/college students with a year of valuable experience, which will give the graduate an edge when they enter the real world of work after their studies. **Founders and custodian of Eidaad** Eidaad was first founded by Ex-

ternal Learning & Development Manager - Hamad Al Hadhrami, from Petroleum Development Oman Company, as a result of the 2017 Oman Energy Forum. However, the ownership and sponsorship of the programme is with the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MOHERI). The MOHERI ensures appropriate nurturing of the program, upscaling, accreditation and that the students' credits are in line with Oman's education schemes. **Benefits** The most important benefit of Eidaad is that it provides students with real work experience before their graduation. No doubt, a good CGPA is important for graduates to apply for a job, however, employers want to see entry-level job candidates with some level of exposure to open-ended real-life situations that are outside of the classroom engagement.

RUWAD AL ARABI

OAB's leadership programme participants gain valuable insights at Oman Sail



MUSCAT: As part of its initiatives to develop national skills and build future leaders, Oman Arab Bank (OAB) organised a field visit for participants in the 'Ruwad Al Arabi for Leadership Development' programme to Oman Sail, where they explored first-hand the non-profit organisation's work environment and innovative operations through engaging dialogues with its management team. During the visit, the program participants met with Dr. Khamis Al Jabri, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Sail. He expressed his appreciation for OAB's initiatives and its goals to develop and prepare young leaders, enabling them to keep pace with economic growth and the requirements of the labour market.

Dr. Al Jabri presented Oman Sail's activities and strategic vision to the programme participants, highlighting its achievements in reviving the Omani maritime heritage and promoting tourism and investments in the Sultanate of Oman. "This visit is an integral part for the 'Ruwad Al Arabi for Leadership Development' programme," explained Essam Al Busaidi, Chief Human Resources & Administration Officer at OAB. "One of OAB's key initiatives is to nurture talent and develop national cadres, cultivating leaders who meet the highest international standards. The programme equips future leaders with the skills necessary to drive change and contribute to growth and innovation. Participants gain

a wide range of experiences and knowledge, enhancing their strategic thinking, decision-making, and communication skills." These field visits familiarise participants in the programme with diverse work environments in various government and private sector entities across various sectors, including information technology, manufacturing, aviation, hospitality, and medical services. This visit provides a unique opportunity for participants to engage with leaders and work teams at Oman Sail and understand the role of strategic thinking in the success of the organisations, the importance of innovation and teamwork in achieving goals, and keeping pace with the change and progress the world is witnessing.

PRACTICAL INSIGHTS



MCBS health and safety management students conduct industry visit to Al Multaqa landfill site

MUSCAT: The Modern College of Business and Science (MCBS) announced that students from the Bachelor of Health and Safety Management (BHSM) programme participated in an educational site visit to the solid waste landfill site at Al Multaqa, Al Amerat, Oman. This visit, facilitated by Beah Oman, forms an integral part of their course curriculum, aimed at providing practical insights into waste management operations and environmental sustainability. **Purpose of the visit** The primary purpose of the site visit was to assess the operations, conditions, and environmental impact of the Al Multaqa landfill site. Al Multaqa, the first engineered landfill site in Oman, receives approximately 1200 tonnes of waste daily. The visit was designed to give students a comprehensive understanding of modern waste management practices and their implications on health, safety, and the environment. **Activities and Learning** During the visit, students were given a detailed tour of various sections of the landfill site, including: The dumping area, Soil compacting processes, The leachate treatment area, The gas

generation unit. Site Manager Khalid Al Mashari, along with Senior Leachate & Gas Technician Krishna, provided in-depth explanations of the landfill operations. They covered key aspects such as: Waste disposal processes Use and maintenance of equipment Soil covering and compacting techniques Safety measures implemented on-site Environmental monitoring and management practices This hands-on experience allowed students to observe the practical applications of their classroom knowledge and understand the complexities involved in managing a large-scale landfill site. **Educational impact** Dr Henry Karyamsetty, HSM programme lecturer, emphasised the importance of such industry visits, stating, "These visits are crucial for our students to bridge the gap between theoretical learning and real-world application. Observing the operations at Al Multaqa provides invaluable exposure to current industry practices and enhances their understanding of environmental management and sustainability."

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