



HM THE SULTAN SENDS WRITTEN MESSAGE TO EMIR OF KUWAIT

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a written message to Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, dealing with bilateral relations and means of enhancing them. The message was handed over by Dr. Saleh Amer Al Kharousi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the State of Kuwait when he was received yesterday by Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Crown Prince of Kuwait at Bayan Palace. **-ONA**



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HM THE SULTAN ARRIVES IN BELGIUM

The three-day state visit was in response to an invitation by the King of the Belgians

BRUSSELS: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik arrived in Brussels yesterday evening, on a three-day state visit to the Kingdom of Belgium.

When the Royal Airplane entered the Belgian airspace, it was escorted by two military aircrafts, in a manifestation of warm welcome for His Majesty the Sultan.

Upon the arrival of His Majesty the Sultan at Brussels Military Airport (Melsbroek Air Base),

a welcoming musical piece was played as he descended the ramp.

At the foot of the ramp, His Majesty the Sultan was received by Tinne Van der Straeten, Minister of Energy, some Belgian officials and members of the Omani embassy in the Kingdom of Belgium.

After that, His Majesty the Sultan proceeded, passing between two rows of the Belgian Royal Guard of Honour.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan

shook hands with senior Belgian officials and military personnel who welcomed him and his accompanying delegation, wishing them a pleasant stay.

After that, the motorcade of His Majesty the Sultan, surrounded by a group of motorcycles, left Brussels Military Airport heading to his venue of residence in the Royal Castle of Laeken.

His Majesty is scheduled to meet King Philippe Leopold Louis Marie, King of the Belgians.

The visit is in response to an invitation by the King of the Belgians. It underlines the advanced relations between Oman and Belgium.

His Majesty the Sultan was seen off at the Royal Airport by HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud

Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council, Nasr bin Hamoud Al Kindi, Secretary General of the Royal Court Affairs, Dr. Madeeha bint Ahmed Al Shibani, Minister of Education, Sheikh Al Fadl bin Mohammed Al Harthy, Secretary General of the Council of Ministers, Lt.Gen Hassan bin Mohsin Al Shuraiqi, Inspec-

tor General of Police and Customs, Lt.Gen Said bin Ali Al Hilali, Head of the Internal Security Service, Dr. Mohammed bin Said Al Ma'amari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, Dr. Hilal bin Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces, Maj.Gen Mattar bin Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman, Air Vice Marshal Khamis bin Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman, Rear Admiral Saif bin Nassir Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman and Maj.Gen Musallam bin Mohammed Jaaboub, Commander of the Sultan's Special Force.

His Majesty the Sultan is ac-

companied during the visit by a high-ranking official delegation comprising HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Abdussalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Eng. Salim bin Nassir Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals and Rua Issa Al Zadjali, Ambassador of Oman to Belgium.

May the Almighty Allah protect His Majesty the Sultan in his journeys and grant him success. **-ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Women in business forum organised

1 The Origin: She Grows, She Leads Women in Business Forum, was held yesterday, at the Crowne Plaza Muscat OCEC. It was hosted by Gulf Leaders Circle (GLC) and Muscat Media Group (MMG) and brought together trailblazing women in leadership and business. **>A4**



OMAN Annual GPCA Forum begins in Muscat

2 The 18th Annual Forum of the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) began in Muscat under the auspices of Sheikh Dr. Ali Masoud Al Sunaidy, Chairman of Opaz. **>A6**

WORLD 56 killed in Guinea football stampede

3 At least 56 people, including children, were killed when chaos broke out at a football game in Guinea, authorities said. The incident occurred in Guinea's second-largest city, Nzerekore. **>A6**

NEW SYSTEM

Sayyid Theyazin launches National System for Evaluating School Performance in Oman

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, yesterday presided over the launch of the National System for Evaluating School Performance in Oman. The ceremony was organised by the Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education (OAAQA).

The new system seeks to encourage educational institutions to develop their own internal sub-systems to ensure quality towards the realisation of the goals of Oman Vision 2040, which accords top priority to education.

The National System for Evaluating School Performance is based on a multi-level evaluation scale comprising "outstanding" performances (to be emulated by schools), "good", "suitable" and "poor" (performances that fail to meet minimum quality standards



and require rapid intervention).

The system utilises 8 main performance evaluation tools applied in the approach to school education: Comprehensiveness, impact measurement, student centrality, national and interna-

tional standards, accuracy of procedures, transparency, neutrality, improvement and accountability.

The launch of the system comes in line with the tasks of the Authority, which is keen on maintaining an educational level that

achieves international standards.

The system introduces a comprehensive strategy to enhance the efficiency of government and private schools through accurate review and comprehensive reports. **>A5**

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IN PICTURES

PRAYER
TIMINGS



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Maghrib.....	5:25pm
Isha.....	6:40pm
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DHOFAR ISLAMIC

Tender for the development of Hawiyat Najm Park announced

The park will have dedicated areas for camping and outdoor activities

MUSCAT: As part of the Muscat Governorate's efforts to implement high-quality projects under the Provincial Development Program umbrella, Muscat Municipality has announced the tender for construction work on the development of Hawiyat Najm Park in Quriyat.

The project, which covers an area of 489,758 square metres, includes site preparation, expanding green spaces, and creating suitable camping areas at different levels. It also includes pathways for walking, public facilities for visitors, and preservation of the site's geological features to ensure it remains an environmentally sustainable project and a model for future developments.

Speaking about the project, Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Hamidi, Chairman of Muscat Municipality, stated: "The development of Hawiyat Najm Park comes within the framework of Muscat Governorate's efforts to deliver pioneering projects that enhance the area by providing a natural haven for both residents and tourists, particularly camping and outdoor en-



thusiasts. The decision to develop this site aims to accommodate more visitors and offer a comprehensive experience that exceeds expectations. The project will provide well-organised camping areas across various zones to meet a pressing need for citizens and tourists visiting the site. Additionally, the project will be executed according to the highest environmental and social sustainability standards."

The project includes developing three interconnected zones. The first zone surrounds the main sinkhole and will feature a panoramic bridge offering breathtaking views, along with a dedicated elevator for people with disabilities and the elderly. Other amenities include a zipline, walking and cycling tracks, recreational activities for children, retail shops, a theater with an exhibition hall, food trucks, and an administrative office.

The second and third zones will cater to camping enthusiasts. These areas will include 191 tents and caravans of various sizes and levels, offering a range of options for visitors. Some tents and caravans will be built on the cliff edge overlooking the Sea of Oman, providing stunning views.

The project is expected to create over 300 job opportunities for local talents and attract more than 5,000 visitors daily during peak periods.

The new camping zones alone are anticipated to accommodate over 400 visitors daily.

Muscat Municipality prioritises sustainability in all its projects.

FUNCTION ORGANISED

Oman joins UAE in celebrating its 53rd anniversary

SHINAS: The Sultanate of Oman yesterday joined the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in celebrating the 53rd anniversary of the establishment of the Union. A ceremony to this effect was organised at Al Wajajah border crossing by the Secretariat General for National Celebrations.

Held in cooperation with the Royal Oman Police (ROP), the celebration saw the participation of Omani citizens.

At the outset of the ceremony, a reception was held for UAE offi-

cers, officials and citizens, greeted and congratulated by Omani on this auspicious national occasion. A concert was presented by the band of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO). Then, Omani signers presented four musical performances, while Omani folk troupes entertained the public.

The celebration concluded with a national song whose lyrics symbolized the two countries' deep-rooted historical bonds, good neighbourliness and family ties. — ONA



BAIT MUZNA GALLERY

South Korean artist Oh Myung Hee brings a message of shared humanity to Oman

LONDON: Bait Muzna Gallery, in collaboration with Metamorphosis Art Projects London, is delighted to announce the highly anticipated Middle Eastern launch of "We Are All Flowers from the Same Garden," a solo exhibition by the renowned South Korean artist Oh Myung Hee. Under the esteemed patronage of Her Highness Sayyida Susan Al Said, Oh Myung Hee is exhibiting for the very first time in Oman.

This extraordinary exhibition will explore themes of interconnectedness, cultural memory, and shared humanity, celebrating the cycles of life, resilience, and the universal experiences that bind us all.

Oh Myung Hee, a celebrated figure in the global art world, is known for her evocative three-dimensional works, videos, and multimedia installations that combine traditional Korean materials such as mother-of-pearl, eggshell, and lacquer with contemporary themes. Her work has been exhibited internationally, including The Nairobi National Museum Kenya, Saatchi Gallery London, the 59th Venice Biennale, and Museum San, Wonju Korea. Now, she brings her visionary art to Oman, marking a significant moment in cross-cultural exchange between South Korea and the Middle East.

A celebration of shared humanity

The exhibition "We Are All Flowers from the Same Garden" is a poetic meditation on the cycles of life, the perpetual rebirth of nature, and the enduring hope that unites us all. Oh Myung Hee's works reflect on collective memory, family, and the interconnectedness of all living beings. Her exploration of the Tree of Life symbolizes the



unity of existence, while her pieces exude a quiet yet powerful hope and joy that speaks to the human spirit's resilience.

The central theme of the exhibition, shared humanity, emphasizes the idea that, like flowers in a garden, we may all be different in shape, size, and colour, but we are united by our shared experiences and emotions. The immersive nature of the exhibition invites audiences to reflect on their own connections to family, memory, and nature, creating a universal dialogue that transcends cultural boundaries.

Cultural diplomacy and collaboration

This exhibition is particularly timely as it celebrates 50 years of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Oman. His Excellency Ambassador Kiejoo Kim will inaugurate the exhibition on 3rd December in Muscat. The exhibition seeks to foster greater cultural understanding between the two nations. Through Oh Myung Hee's art, the exhibition aims to build bridges between South Korean and Omani audiences, highlighting shared values, heritage, and the collective human experience.

"We are honoured to present Oh



Myung Hee's work at Bait Muzna Gallery," said HH Sayyida Susan Al Said, the gallery's founder. "This exhibition serves as a powerful reminder that despite our differences, we are all connected through our shared humanity."

Engaging Programming

In addition to the exhibition, Oh Myung Hee will lead workshops at Bait Muzna Gallery, offering visitors the chance to explore traditional Korean art techniques, including the use of mother-of-pearl and lacquer. These workshops will provide a unique hands-on experience, allowing participants to engage more deeply with the artist's work and process. A professionally published catalogue, featuring essays and contextual texts, will accompany the exhibition. This will provide visitors with a deeper understanding of Oh Myung Hee's artistic journey, the exhibition's thematic concerns, and its cross-cultural objectives.

Global perspective

Following its debut in Muscat, "We Are All Flowers from the Same Garden" is set to travel to Seoul, other Middle Eastern museums, and possibly London, further expanding its reach and impact on a

global stage.

About the artist

Oh Myung Hee is the former professor emeritus at Suwon University and a highly respected figure in the international art community. Known for her three-dimensional works, videos, and multimedia art, she skillfully merges traditional Korean materials such as mother-of-pearl, eggshell, and lacquer with contemporary forms and themes. Her work, which explores femininity, freedom, and desire, has been exhibited across the globe including the Nairobi National Museum Kenya, the 59th Venice Biennale, the Saatchi Gallery London, Gallery BHAK Seoul, and Miromesnil Gallery Paris.

Through her art, Oh Myung Hee delves into the concept of "Han"—a uniquely Korean expression of collective grief—and examines the role of women in a patriarchal society. Despite addressing painful themes, her work conveys a message of enduring hope, akin to the cycle of nature and the renewal of spring. Oh Myung Hee has exhibited extensively across Asia, Europe, and the United States, with museum shows at Museum San, Wonju Korea, and Ovse Museum, Tokyo.

OMAN



THE

SHE GROWS, SHE LEADS

THE ORIGIN

A transformative forum empowering women in business was organised by the Gulf Leaders Circle and Muscat Media Group on Monday

MUSCAT: The Origin: She Grows, She Leads Women in Business Forum, held yesterday, at the Crowne Plaza Muscat OCEC, was a groundbreaking event celebrating the achievements, resilience, and leadership of women across Oman and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.

Hosted by Gulf Leaders Circle (GLC), and Muscat Media Group (MMG), the forum brought together distinguished leaders, entrepreneurs, and professionals to share their insights and chart a path for inclusive growth and innovation.

The forum was graced by Her Highness Dr. Taghreed bint Turki Al Said, Founder and CEO of the Learn and Inspire Center and My Book & Me Nursery, the forum's theme, "She Grows, She Leads," underscored the vital role of women in shaping the future of business and leadership.

Dr Taghreed delivered an inspiring keynote address, encouraging women to embrace their creativity and resilience while focusing on mental and physical health as essential components of success.

"Women are not only creative and innovative but are central to driving meaningful change," she said, adding that balancing priorities and overcoming challenges with determination can pave the way to achieving goals.

"I feel the energy present in this hall. It is essential that women take care of their physical and mental health, as they are the foundation for success," she added. She urged the audience to set clear priorities and overcome challenges on the road to achieving their goals.

The forum highlighted the importance of mentorship, innovation, and inclusivity in leadership. This was reinforced throughout the day by a series of impactful discussions and insights shared by visionary women leaders.

Insightful panel discussions

The first panel titled "Overcoming Challenges in Business & Leadership" explored the obstacles women face in leadership roles and how to overcome them with grit and determination.

Elise Van Zeeland, Executive Director of Al Habib Medical Group, opened the discussion by sharing her own journey of resilience. "The path to success isn't linear. We face challenges, but it's how we rise from them that defines us," she said, highlighting the importance of perseverance and adaptability in leadership.

Fatma Al Nabhani, a professional tennis and padel athlete and member of the Oman Padel Committee, shared her personal story of breaking barriers in the world of sports. "I started at five



Estate, and Board Member of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Laila Al Hadhrami, Managing Director of C3 Cities; Rahma Al-Hasmi, Deputy VP Commercial at SOHAR Port and Freezone; and Dr. Budoor Al Mansour, COO and Co-Founder of Novo Genomics.

The discussion centered on how innovation and mentorship can help break barriers for women in leadership roles.

Empowering contributions

The forum also featured powerful contributions from other prominent leaders, including Rasha Al Nadhy, Marketing Manager at Yiti Sustainable City, who stressed the importance of sustainable business practices.

Nouf Abdullah Al Ruhili, Lawyer and Legal Consultant at Abdullah Al Moshayri Law Firm, addressed the need for legal empowerment for women in business.

Siham Yousuf Al Kharousi, Empowerment Program Manager at Dar Al Atta, shared her perspective on the importance of community-driven initiatives in empowering women.

Sponsors played a key role in the success of this forum, with Sohar Port and Freezone serving as the strategic sponsor, Integrated Gas Company as the supporting sponsor, and the Oman Society for Human Resources Management (OSHRM) as the knowledge sponsor. Additional partners included Oman Banks Association (co-sponsor), Yiti Sustainable City (sustainability partner), Splash and Max (retail sponsors), Al Mashreqi Advocates and Legal Consultants (legal sponsor), and Dar Al Atta (growth partner).



SHE GROWS. SHE LEADS.

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“Women are not only creative and innovative but are central to driving meaningful change—adding that balancing priorities and overcoming challenges with determination can pave the way to achieving goals.



years old, and my vision was always clear: To be the best and to compete internationally. It wasn't easy, but the support I received from my country was invaluable," she remarked, reflecting on the determination required to excel in professional sports.

"I am proud to represent Oman and grateful for the unwavering

support my country has given me." Areej Al Shaibani, Senior Manager Talent and Planning at Omantel, added her perspective on the importance of collaboration in leadership.

"Men and women are on the same journey, and it's crucial that we support each other. The synergy between both genders can cre-



ate a powerful force for change," she said, emphasising the need for both genders to work together to overcome the challenges that arise in business.

"Inspiring Leadership – Breaking Barriers & Creating Opportunities for Women" was the topic for the second panel.

This session showcased vision-

ary leaders who are creating pathways for other women to succeed, with a focus on mentorship, innovation, and fostering inclusive work environments.

The panel featured Sofana Dahlan, Founder and Managing Partner of Sofana Dahlan Law Firm; Dr. Siham Al Harthy, CEO and Chairman of Summu Real

A call for action

The "She Grows, She Leads" forum concluded with a resounding message: Women have the ability to lead transformational change in business and society. The event not only celebrated the achievements of trailblazing women but also provided a platform for meaningful dialogue, collaboration, and inspiration for future leaders.

"This forum is a testament to the strength and determination of women leaders who inspire us to dream bigger and aim higher," said one of the attendees.



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NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR EVALUATING SCHOOL PERFORMANCE



New system to boost performance of schools

<FROM A1 The Authority was keen on developing these educational standards that meet the national goals and visions, as well as the requirements of the labour market and keep pace with global updates.

The Authority, represented by the Centre for Quality Assurance of School Education, issued the National System for Evaluating School Performance after several stages of development, experimentation and review. Through this process, the

Authority focused on analysing relevant documents and studies and in-depth study of a number of regional and international experiences and practices.

The new system is set to cause a positive transition in the performance of schools in the Sultanate of Oman, enabling them to continuously improve their performance. The evaluation mechanism will be followed up through field visits by specialists, who will draft reports that reflect the strengths and opportunities for improvement. This

will lend support to school supervisory bodies in developing better strategic plans.

The new system also seeks to build sustainable partnerships with the Ministry of Education and relevant authorities with the objective of achieving integration and enhancing the quality of education in the Sultanate of Oman. The Authority is keen to cooperate with specialised international and regional institutions and exchange expertise in the field.

The system consolidates the

Sultanate of Oman's position as a distinguished educational centre at the regional and international levels. This will in turn help in establishing a stimulating and innovative educational environment that drives students' comprehensive growth and meets the aspirations of parents and society.

The ceremony was attended by some Royal family members, ministers, members of the State Council, undersecretaries, members of the Shura Council and interested parties. — ONA

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Education forum

SUWON: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Education, took part in the UNESCO International Forum on the Futures of Education 2024, held in Suwon, the Republic of Korea, till 4 December 2024.

Oman's delegation is headed by Amna Salim Al Balushi, Permanent Representative of Oman to the UNESCO. The forum aims to encourage partners associated with education to renew the social contract for education in a bid to reach a future that is more just and sustainable for everyone. — ONA

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PRE-24-316 (Re-Call)	Survey Study of visitor's satisfaction with events and services of Muscat Nights (Festival 2024-2025)	10/12/2024	15/12/2024
PRE-24-331	Supply of Devices and their Accessories for Inspectors	22/12/2024	12/01/2025

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Annual GPCA Forum commences in Muscat

As a vital platform for collaboration and innovation in the petrochemical sector, the forum underscores the region's commitment to advancing global industry standards



MUSCAT: The 18th Annual Forum of the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) began in Muscat yesterday under the auspices of Sheikh Dr. Ali Masoud Al Sunaidy, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz).

The event, hosted by OQ Group, brings together ministers, GCC energy leaders, corporate executives and over 2,600 attendees from 43 countries. As a vital platform for collaboration and innovation in the petrochemical sector, the forum underscores the region's commitment to advancing global industry standards.

Hosting the GPCA Forum reflects OQ's dedication to driving progress in the petrochemical industry locally, regionally and internationally.

Leveraging Oman's natural resources, OQ has strategically invested in downstream and petrochemical industries, reaching over 3,000 customers in more than 80 countries, positioning OQ as a leader in the energy sector.

Sheikh Dr. Ali Masoud Al Sunaidy remarked: "We are delight-



ed to inaugurate the 18th edition of the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association Forum in the Sultanate of Oman. Hosting this event is a significant milestone that reflects Oman's ongoing efforts to advance the energy sector, enhance its contribution to GDP and leverage national resources by expanding manufacturing, petrochemical and chemical industries in support of sustainable economic development."

He emphasised the need for greater collaboration among GCC nations to tackle the challenges of a volatile global economy and foster dialogue with international

partners.

He highlighted the region's efforts to transition to clean and alternative energy sources, embrace digitalisation, and implement strict measures to reduce carbon emissions, while preserving natural ecosystems and ensuring sustainable growth.

The forum's exhibition, featuring over 110 companies, showcases groundbreaking petrochemical innovations and advancements.

OQ's participation highlights its digital transformation journey, reflecting the group's focus on increasing efficiency and sustainability.

Attendees were introduced to OQ's strategic initiatives aimed at achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, including investments in alternative energy, energy intensity reduction programmes, and an integrated energy management system.

The forum's discussions will cover growth, efficiency and sustainability in the petrochemical sector, with CEOs from leading companies sharing their visions for the next decade. Keynote sessions explore themes such as resilience, sustainability, and innova-

tion, addressing global challenges like food security and energy security amidst shifting geopolitical dynamics.

A major highlight of the forum is the SolutionXchange programme, returning for its second edition. The programme focuses on energy management, the circular economy, and digital transformation, providing attendees with unique opportunities to engage with industry leaders.

OQ's petrochemical sector plays a pivotal role in empowering Oman's manufacturing and chemical industries. By producing essential raw materials and creating investment opportunities, OQ attracts foreign direct investment and fosters industrial development.

Its integrated approach, covering the entire value chain from resource extraction to specialized chemical production, exemplifies OQ's commitment to operational excellence, innovation and sustainability.

This year's forum provides an invaluable platform to showcase the Group's strategic priorities, advanced technology and efficiency enhancement efforts. — **ONA**



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IN SAUDI ARABIA



Oman attends COP16 meeting to combat desertification

RIYADH: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Environment Authority, is taking part in the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The meeting, being held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 2 to 13 December, takes the theme "Our Land." "Our Future".

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

In his speech, Al Amri stressed the effective role of the Sultanate of Oman in combating the phenomenon of desertification due to its negative impacts on natural pastures and areas of arable land. Towards this end, Oman is implementing clear-cut environmental

policies, based on Oman Vision 2040, he added. Oman also signed and adhered to environmental agreements and treaties of relevance, he said.

As many as 197 parties, including 196 countries and the European Union, are taking part in the conference at a time when the world is witnessing an unprecedented rate of desertification, land degradation and drought.

The activities of the conference include the launch of initiatives and elaboration on ways to fund them and utilize them, in addition to discussions on specific projects undertaken by countries to combat desertification and land degradation. The conferees will also review the implementation plan of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). — **ONA**

KEREM SHALOM

UNRWA pauses Gaza aid through key crossing



GAZA: The UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) has said it is suspending aid deliveries through the Kerem Shalom crossing after armed gangs looted recent convoys.

Kerem Shalom is the only crossing between Israel and Gaza that is designed for cargo shipments.

Announcing the suspension, UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini said the route to the crossing was too dangerous on the Gaza side.

Nearly 100 trucks travelling the route were looted in mid-November, and, Lazzarini said, a smaller shipment was stolen on Saturday.

In a post on X, Lazzarini largely blamed Israel for a "breakdown in law order" and the shortage of aid getting into Gaza. There is no reason for Israel to hinder the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, a German diplomat said on Sunday.

Israel must "allow sufficient humanitarian access at any moment," Tobias Lindner, the deputy foreign affairs minister, said ahead of his trip to Egypt, according to the AFP news agency.

"Israel's right to legitimate self-defense finds its limits in international humanitarian rights," he added. German Foreign Min-

ister Annalena Baerbock made similar comments in November, accusing Israel of "constantly" renegeing on its commitments.

Israeli strikes kill several Palestinians

At least 15 Palestinians were killed by Israeli military strikes in Gaza on Sunday, medics in the Palestinian territory said.

They said six people in a house were killed in an airstrike in the central Gaza camp in Nuseirat, while a further three died in another attack in a home in Gaza City.

Two children were killed by a missile in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, while four other people were killed in an airstrike in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, medics told Reuters news agency.

The Health Ministry in the Hamas-run enclave said on Sunday that 44,429 people in the enclave had been killed in more than 13 months of war between Israel and Palestinian militants, which was triggered by a Hamas-led attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, in which some 1,200 people died.

The ministry put the number of wounded in Gaza at 105,250, including 47 deaths in the previous 24 hours. — **OW**

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Foundation stone laid for OMR52mn Al-Falah Hospital in South Al Sharqiyah

JALAN BANI BU ALI: The Ministry of Health celebrated yesterday the groundbreaking of Al-Falah Hospital in the South Al Sharqiyah Governorate. The project is to the tune of OMR51.86 million.

The event was held under the auspices of Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agricultural, Fisheries, and Water Resources, in the presence of Dr. Hilal Ali Al-Sabti, Minister of Health.

Safe and seamless movement pathways have been designed inside and outside the hospital, ensuring easy access and navigation across its various departments. It is worth noting that Al-Falah Hospital will be built on a land area of 343,000 square metres, with a construction area of 58,000 square metres.

The hospital will have a capacity of 170 beds and 38 outpatient clinics covering various medical specialties, along with an emergency and trauma department.

The radiology department will be equipped with the latest imaging technologies, including MRI, CT scans, X-rays, and ultrasound. The hospital will also feature a



nephrology unit, a day-care unit, and a dental clinic, in addition to inpatient wards for surgery and internal medicine.

The project will also include three fully equipped operating rooms designed to handle surgical cases, along with facilities for endoscopic surgeries.

It will feature a dedicated obstetrics, gynecology, and pediatric unit, comprising a pediatric ward, an intensive care unit, an obstet-

rics & gynecology ward, a delivery section, and a neonatal care unit for premature infants.

The hospital will house an advanced laboratory equipped with state-of-the-art devices for diagnostic testing.

Additional components of the project include public amenities, accommodations for medical staff, workshops for maintenance and medical equipment engineers, administrative offices, and service

buildings. The hospital will also have three storage facilities for medical supplies, a general warehouse, and a specialized warehouse for flammable materials.

It will feature a water treatment plant, backup generators, drinking water purification systems, and a fully integrated medical gas building. The facility will include 1,422 parking spaces and various other public services and facilities. — **ONA**

DISPUTED PENALTY

56 killed in Guinea soccer stampede

NZEREKORE: At least 56 people, including children, were killed when chaos broke out at a soccer game in Guinea, authorities said on Monday. The incident occurred on Sunday in Guinea's second-largest city, Nzerekore.

"The government deplores the incidents that marred the football match between the Labe and Nzerekore teams this afternoon in Nzerekore," Guinea's Prime Minister Amadou Oury Bah wrote on social media. "During the stampede, victims were recorded."

Match attendees said that a dispute broke out between fans of the local Nzerekore squad and supporters of the team from the city

of Labe following a controversial decision by the referee.

"This [the disputed penalty] angered supporters who threw stones. This is how the security services used tear gas," local outlet Media Guinea reported.

The use of tear gas reportedly sparked panic.

A police station in Nzerekore was also vandalized as the clashes moved through the streets of the city. According to city officials who spoke with journalists on condition of anonymity, many of the victims were minors who got caught in a stampede out of the stadium that followed police officers releasing tear gas. — **OW**



National Museum launches premiere of documentary film ‘al-Khanjar’

The event was held under the patronage of Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information

MUSCAT: The National Museum inaugurated yesterday the premiere of the documentary film “al-Khanjar” produced by RT Arabic in collaboration with the Ministry of Information.

The event was held under the patronage of Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, and attended by several distin-



guished guests and individuals interested in media and museum affairs. The chief guest said in a press statement that the production of the film reflects the strength of Omani-Russian relations in the fields of culture and media. He added that the film production also underlines the two countries’ keenness on consolidating global cultural diversity and highlighting Omani civilization, in Russia and the world.

Dr. Abdullah stressed that the Ministry of Information supports all media initiatives that spotlight Oman and its cultural potential at the international level. He pointed

out that such international media initiatives also contribute to enhancing economic aspects like tourism and investment.

The minister added that the Ministry of Information encourages such media initiatives with many countries, notably by hosting international journalists and supporting media production about Oman. This, he explained, would help boost Oman’s global presence.

On his turn, Jamal Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary-General of the National Museum, stated during his speech at the ceremony “The launch of the documentary film “al-Khanjar” represents a significant step in showcasing one of the most prominent Omani cultural symbols, which forms an integral part of Oman’s identity and rich heritage.

The Omani khanjar was inscribed on UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2022.

This valued initiative, carried out in collaboration with RT Arabic, highlights the partnership between the National Museum and the State Hermitage Museum through the symbolism and narrative of the Omani khanjar and its historical evolution. It underscores the exceptional craftsmanship of Omanis in preserving this authentic emblem.”

He added: “At the National Museum, we are committed to conveying Oman’s cultural message to the world and enhancing international partnerships related to culture and museology, which then supports cultural tourism and expands new opportunities for this sector. This documentary film is a vivid example of the importance of cultural collaboration in bringing aspects of Omani heritage to a wider audience, and reinforcing Oman’s status as a global cultural destination.” – **ONA**

GUN CRIMES

President Biden pardons son Hunter, says he was ‘unfairly’ prosecuted

WASHINGTON DC: US President Joe Biden on Sunday signed a pardon for his son, Robert Hunter Biden, who had been convicted on charges related to gun crimes and tax violations.

The pardon ensures that Hunter Biden will not face sentencing for these offences and removes the possibility of prison time.

In a statement, President Biden addressed the charges against his son, arguing that individuals in similar situations—such as those with tax payment issues due to addiction—typically receive non-criminal resolutions. He contended that Hunter’s case was treated differently, leading to felony charges despite the absence of aggravating factors.

Biden also stressed his commitment to not interfere with the Justice Department’s decision-making, despite his belief that his son had been “selectively and unfairly prosecuted.”

“Today, I signed a pardon for my son Hunter. From the day I took office, I said I would not interfere with the Justice Department’s decision-making, and I kept my word even as I have watched my son being selectively and unfairly prosecuted. Without aggravating factors like use in a crime, multiple purchases, or buying a weapon as a straw purchaser, people are



almost never brought to trial on felony charges solely for how they filled out a gun form. Those who were late paying their taxes because of serious addictions but paid them back subsequently with interest and penalties are typically given non-criminal resolutions. It is clear that Hunter was treated differently,” the statement read.

Biden explained that the charges against his son were initiated after political opponents in Congress pushed for the case to be brought forward. He added that a plea deal, which had been negotiated with the Department of Justice, unraveled in court due to political pressure.

“The charges in his cases came about only after several of my political opponents in Congress

instigated them to attack me and oppose my election. Then, a carefully negotiated plea deal, agreed to by the Department of Justice, unravelled in the courtroom—with a number of my political opponents in Congress taking credit for bringing political pressure on the process. Had the plea deal held, it would have been a fair, reasonable resolution of Hunter’s cases,” the statement added.

The President maintained that the charges were politically motivated, asserting that Hunter was targeted because of his relationship with him. Biden concluded his statement by expressing his belief that, while he had faith in the justice system, the legal process had been influenced by politics, leading to a “miscarriage of justice.”

“No reasonable person who looks at the facts of Hunter’s cases can reach any other conclusion than Hunter was singled out only because he is my son—and that is wrong. There has been an effort to break Hunter, who has been five and a half years sober, even in the face of unrelenting attacks and selective prosecution. In trying to break Hunter, they’ve tried to break me—and there’s no reason to believe it will stop here. Enough is enough,” Biden said.

“For my entire career I have followed a simple principle: just tell the American people the truth. They’ll be fair-minded. Here’s the truth: I believe in the justice system, but as I have wrestled with this, I also believe raw politics has infected this process, and it led to a miscarriage of justice—and once I made this decision this weekend, there was no sense in delaying it further. I hope Americans will understand why a father and a President would come to this decision,” the statement added.

This pardon marks a significant development following the US presidential elections, as Biden prepares to leave the White House and make way for Donald Trump, who will begin his second term in January 2025. However, the pardon cannot be reversed by President-elect Trump. **-ANI**

HUNTER BIDEN

Trump calls pardon ‘miscarriage of Justice’

WASHINGTON DC: US President-elect Donald Trump has responded to outgoing US President Joe Biden’s decision to pardon his son Hunter who had been convicted on charges related to gun crimes and tax violations, calling it a miscarriage of Justice.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said, “Does the Pardon given by Joe to Hunter include the J-6 Hostages, who have now been imprisoned for years? Such an abuse and miscarriage of Justice!”

The J6 hostages is a reference to those people imprisoned for their role in the January 6, 2021 riots on Capitol Hill. Trump and his supporters have called the imprisoned people hostages claiming they were acting peacefully and patriotically.

It has been speculated that once Donald Trump takes over as President he will issue a pardon for those who are imprisoned for their role in the siege of Capitol Hill on January 6 2021.

Business consultant

Business consultant Suhel Seth, on Monday said that US President Joe Biden’s unconditional pardon to his son Hunter Biden was a travesty of the US Justice system. He also called out the US justice system on the way they had handled Adani case.

Seth, in conversation with ANI said that Biden had himself said



that the US justice system was infected with politics and questioned if anyone would believe in the system.

“Yesterday, Joe Biden’s unconditional pardon to his son Hunter Biden, to my mind is a travesty of the American justice system. What’s worse is that it’s an indictment of the justice system itself.

“A sitting president of the United States, Joe Biden, in this case, in his statement, has said that while he had faith in the American judiciary, he believes that politics has infected the American judiciary and therefore has led to a miscarriage of justice. These are not my words. These are the words of Joe Biden. If a sitting president of America says this about his justice system, you tell me who and where and why should anyone trust this American justice system?” Seth said. **-ANI**

GULF AIR FLIGHT

60 Indians stuck at Kuwait airport depart for Manchester

KUWAIT CITY: The stranded passengers of Gulf Air flight departed at 04:34am on Monday from Kuwait, Indian Embassy in Kuwait said in a statement.

The statement added that the embassy team was on the ground till the flight departed.

In a post on X, it said, “Gulf Air flight to Manchester finally departed at 0434 hours today carrying stranded Indian passengers among others. Embassy team was on the ground till the flight departed.”

Around 60 Indian passengers were left stranded at Kuwait International Airport for over 13 hours on Sunday after their Gulf Air flight was diverted there due to a technical snag.

The passengers, travelling on Gulf Air flight GF 005 from Mumbai to Manchester, complained of facing discomfort as the airline failed to provide food, accommodation, or basic assistance during their extended wait.

Voiced their grievances

The situation escalated as passengers voiced their grievances on social media, which eventually prompted a response from the Indian Embassy in Kuwait.

The Embassy said, “Food and water is available for the stranded passengers at the lounges.”

The embassy officials said that the passengers were accommodat-



ed in two airport lounges.

“Embassy had immediately taken up the matter with Gulf Air in Kuwait. A team from Embassy is at the airport to assist the passengers and coordinate with the airline. Passengers have been accommodated in 2 airport lounges.”

Arzoo Singh, one of the stranded passengers travelling from Mumbai to Manchester, shared her frustration with ANI, explaining the dire situation. “After we raised the issue on social media, senior officials from the Indian Embassy in Kuwait reached out to the Indi-

an passengers stuck at the airport,” she said.

Another passenger, Shivansh, who was also on the flight, took to social media to express his frustration.

“Reading Why Bharat Matters while getting stuck in Kuwait without any help. All British passport holders got their hotels sorted with on-arrival visas, while Indian passport holders have been left stranded without any info, food, or any kind of help. Please help and provide us a visa so that at least we can get a hotel and wait for the next flight,” he said in a post on X. **-ANI**



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services invites the specialized companies to participate and submit their offers for the below said tenders:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2024/138	SUPPLY OF HOTLINE INSULATOR WASHER SKID	17-Dec-2024	29-Dec-2024	52.500
DISC/2024/139	POWER SUPPLY AT SHAHAN, YEMEN FROM MAZAYONA, SULTANATE OF OMAN.	17-Dec-2024	29-Dec-2024	105.000
DISC/2024/140	Replacement of Existing 11kV Switchgear at Madinat Al Haq PSS	17-Dec-2024	29-Dec-2024	105.000

- To purchase the tender document website via the link or the Barcode below:
https://isupplier.nama.om:4443/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XXTEN_TENDER_FLOAT_DISC_F
- Every company wishing to participate in this tender must attach with its bid a bid bond in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Any bid that does not contain the bid bond will be disqualified.
- The original bid bond must be submitted in an envelope sealed with red wax and addressed to the chairperson of the minor tender committee and written on outside the Tender name and the Tender number and it should be paced in the tender box in Nama Dhofar Services in Salalah before 10:00 am of the last day for submitting Bids.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using “isupplier portal”. No hard copies are accepted.
- The Tender fees are not refundable. However, Tenderers who are holding “Riyada” card issued from public authority for SME development will be exempted from providing the tender fee and the Bid bond.
- The company is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.
- In the event of receipt of the tender document on behalf of another company, the interested purchasers in the above tender document should provide details of the person’s name and the company details.

For any clarifications contact us on:
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SPORTS

Verstappen triumphs in Qatar after Norris handed a penalty

The Red Bull driver was in a tight fight with the McLaren rival throughout the race until the Briton was given a 10-second stop-and-go penalty for failing to slow for yellow flags

DOHA: Red Bull's Max Verstappen won a dramatic Qatar Grand Prix on Sunday that was brought to life by two mid-race safety cars and a penalty for McLaren's Lando Norris.

Verstappen was in a tight fight with Norris throughout the race until the Briton was given a 10-second stop-and-go penalty for failing to slow for yellow flags.

The Dutchman was instrumental in getting Norris the penalty after pointing the incident out to his team.

Meanwhile, there will be questions about the management of the race by governing body the FIA, after Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton and Ferrari's Carlos Sainz both suffered punctures.

It is unclear whether the punctures were caused by worn tyres or debris from a wing mirror that had been lying on the pit straight for about three laps before it was smashed by Valtteri Bottas' Sauber.

The punctures happened shortly after the mirror was hit, and the safety car was called to allow marshals to clear the shattered



carbon-fibre and glass.

At the restart, Norris challenged Verstappen, who defended his position robustly, but their tussle was academic, because of the penalty.

The punishment also ended McLaren's hopes of tying up the constructors' championship in this race.

They now go to the final race in

sition to win the race at the start. He had taken pole position on Saturday, before being demoted one place behind Mercedes' George Russell for driving too slowly during the session.

Verstappen made his typically good start, getting up the inside of the Mercedes on the run to Turn One, and taking the lead.

As they washed slightly wide, Norris went up the inside to pass Russell, but Verstappen fended off the McLaren on the run to Turn Two.

Verstappen and Norris ran together at the front for half the race, the gap never more than two seconds, as Russell started to fall back from them with Norris' team's mate Oscar Piastri putting him under pressure.

As the leader, Verstappen always had the advantage, but the destiny of the race was up in the air until Norris was judged to have transgressed in failing to slow for a yellow caution flag.

Verstappen has 'lost all respect' for Russell

DOHA: Max Verstappen said on Sunday that he has "lost all respect" for George Russell after receiving a penalty at the Qatar Grand Prix.

The world champion was unhappy at the role the Mercedes driver played in the incident.

Verstappen was given a one-place grid penalty for impeding Russell by driving unnecessarily slowly in qualifying on Saturday.

It dropped his Red Bull from pole position behind the Briton on the grid.

Verstappen was upset by Russell's behaviour when they went to the stewards to discuss the incident.

"I was quite surprised when sitting there in the stewards' room, what was all

going on," Verstappen said.

"Honestly, very disappointing because I think we're all here, we respect each other a lot and, of course, I've been in that meeting room many times in my life, in my career with people that have raced, and I've never seen someone trying to screw someone over that hard.

"And that for me... I lost all respect."

Speaking to Dutch TV station Viaplay, Verstappen added: "He always acts extremely polite in front of the cameras but if you sit together with him personally, he's a completely different person.

"I truly can't stand that. Then you might as well get lost. I don't want anything to do with you." - Agencies

MANCHESTER CITY MANAGER

I didn't expect that at Anfield: Guardiola

LONDON: "Sacked in the morning, you're getting sacked in the morning."

Liverpool were closing in on a win that would take them 11 points clear of title rivals Manchester City when the chants echoed around Anfield in the 89th minute.

They were directed at Pep Guardiola, the mastermind behind six Premier League title triumphs since taking charge of City in 2016.

The City boss, standing in his technical area, responded with a smile and then took his hands out of his pockets to hold up one hand and one finger to indicate the number of titles City have won under him.

"I didn't expect that at Anfield," Guardiola told Sky Sports afterwards when asked about the "sacked in the morning" chants.

"I didn't expect it from the people from Liverpool but it's fine, it's part of the game, and I understand completely.

"We've had incredible battles together. I have a respect for them."

City, who end the weekend fifth in the table below Liverpool, Ar-



senal, Chelsea and Brighton, have lost four consecutive top-flight games for the first time since August 2008.

In addition, they are without a win in seven in all competitions - unheard of under Guardiola who has brought so much joy and success to City in the past eight years.

"All the stadiums want to sack me, it started at Brighton [on 9 November]," added the 53-year-old, who signed a new two-year contract extension last month.

"Maybe they are right with the results we've been having."

Guardiola has also delivered one Champions League, two FA Cups, four EFL Cups, the FIFA Club World Cup and UEFA Super Cup during his time at City.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Reds beat City to go 9 points clear

LONDON: Liverpool extended their lead at the top of the Premier League to nine points and heaped more misery on fading champions Manchester City with a fully deserved 2-0 victory at Anfield.

Arne Slot's pace-setters, fresh from beating Champions League holders Real Madrid, were in rampant mood and subjected City to a relentless barrage from the kick-off. Liverpool were not flattered by the margin of victory, which leaves them 11 points clear of City, who not won for seven matches - losing their past four league games.

Virgil van Dijk had headed against the post - while City keeper Stefan Ortega, in for the dropped Ederson, had already been in constant action - before Liverpool went ahead after 12 minutes.

Mohamed Salah showed perfect vision to pick out Cody Gakpo for a simple finish in front of the Kop as City were unable to cope with Liverpool's attacking intensity.

Van Dijk headed wide when it seemed easier to score and Liverpool created more chances when, as City hinted at a belated recovery, the league leaders increased their lead with 12 minutes left.

Liverpool substitute Darwin Nunez hustled Ruben Dias into an error. Luis Diaz cashed in and was brought down by Ortega, with



Salah making no mistake from the spot after missing against Real Madrid in midweek.

Slot has now won 18 of 20 games in charge, his sole defeat coming at home to Nottingham Forest.

At Old Trafford, Ruben Amorim collected his first Premier League victory in emphatic fashion as his Manchester United side easily put away lowly Everton 4-0.

United drew at Ipswich last weekend in Amorim's first game

in charge since replacing interim manager Ruud van Nistelrooy, before beating Bodo/Glimt in the Europa League on Thursday.

On Sunday they were initially wasteful in the final third and had little control of the contest, but they were clinical once they broke through with Marcus Rashford and Joshua Zirkzee both scoring twice. Rashford's low strike deflected in off the centre-back's outstretched boot for the opener, be-

fore Branthwaite dawdled on the ball allowing Amad Diallo to nip in and feed Bruno Fernandes, who laid it off for Zirkzee to convert.

The Red Devils effectively ended the game as a contest just 20 seconds into the second half when the impressive Diallo slid a pass through to Rashford to convert and Dutchman Zirkzee coolly slotted United's fourth on 64 minutes to wrap up a comfortable victory.

Meanwhile, at Stamford Bridge, Cole Palmer shone in a comfortable Chelsea 3-0 win over an Aston Villa side whose worrying winless run extended to eight matches.

Nicolas Jackson gave Chelsea a seventh-minute lead, squeezing a first-time finish past Emi Martinez after Marc Cucurella forced Jadon Philogene into a mistake on the edge of his own box before crossing.

Enzo Fernandez then volleyed in the second in the 36th minute.

The Argentina midfielder finished with his right foot after an excellent touch with his left, following a good ball from Palmer, with Moises Caicedo having won the ball in midfield. Palmer then curled in a sensational left-foot finish from the edge of the box in the 83rd minute to seal victory.

And in another match, Tottenham drew 1-1 with Fulham.

FAREWELL EXHIBITION MATCH AGAINST DJOKOVIC

Del Potro pays emotional goodbye to tennis

BUENOS AIRES: Former US Open champion Juan Martin del Potro paid an emotional goodbye to tennis after a farewell exhibition match against Novak Djokovic in Argentina on Sunday.

The 36-year-old won his sole major title in 2009 but his career was blighted by injuries.

The Argentine fractured his knee in 2019 - an injury that he says has left him with daily pain - and played in his final tournament in 2022.

But he participated in 'The Last Challenge' in Buenos Aires against long-time rival and good friend Djokovic and about 15,000

watched Del Potro win 6-4, 7-5.

Del Potro was in tears several times during the match and shared a long hug with Djokovic at the end.

He then laid his iconic bandana, which he wore throughout his career, on the middle of the net.

"I do not know a person who does not love Juan Martin del Potro," Djokovic said.

"Juan Martin is an example for all of us, and his greatest victory in life is being a wonderful person."

Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Carlos Alcaraz and Gael Monfils featured in a video tribute to the Argentine.

Del Potro beat five-time defending champion Federer to win the US Open in 2009.

He reached the final in New York again in 2018 but lost to Djokovic.

A popular player with a huge forehand, Del Potro won two Olympic medals - bronze in 2012 and silver four years later.

He claimed 22 ATP singles titles in his career and was as high as number three in the world rankings.

However, a wrist injury derailed his career after his US Open victory before he seriously injured his knee at Queen's in 2019.

Del Potro released a video on

Instagram last week, external discussing the long-term impact injuries have had on his body.

"My daily life isn't what I would like it to be. It's very tough. There are moments where I have no more strength," he said.

"I'm not indestructible. I have good things, bad things but most of the time I have to fake it and put on a good face, but many times I feel terrible.

"Since that moment [after surgery in 2019], I was never able to climb stairs without pain.

"I hurts when I drive, it hurts many times when I go to sleep. It's been a never-ending nightmare."



Juan Martin del Potro (right) and Novak Djokovic at the farewell exhibition match held at the Parque Roca stadium in Buenos Aires

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS
Oman Crude (February Delivery 2025) declined by 31 cents to reach \$71.96 per barrel, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). Average price of Oman Crude (December Delivery) has stabilised at \$74.82 per barrel, \$1.33 per barrel higher than November delivery. - **OMA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 4,569.60 points, down by 0.19% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.64% at 418.14 points. Majan Glass was the top gainer while, Al Suwadi Power was the top loser.
> B2



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OCCI, Riyadh Chamber discuss ways to enhance trade relations

Trade exchange between the two countries, as of the end of June 2024, reached approximately OMR1.14 billion

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and the Riyadh Chamber discussed ways to enhance trade and economic cooperation between the two friendly countries during a meeting held at the Riyadh Chamber headquarters in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The meeting began with a speech from Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Murshid, a member of the Riyadh Chamber's Board of Directors, who stated that this visit between the Kingdom of Saudi

Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman contributes to strengthening economic and trade relations between the two countries, achieving greater cooperation and growth.

He emphasised the importance of investment partnerships that benefit everyone and noted that this visit allows for the exploration of new opportunities and the exchange of experiences and best practices through the Chamber of Commerce.

Al-Murshid added that the relations between the two countries form a common ground that contributes to achieving our aspirations and enhances innovation and promising initiatives.

"With support from Vision 2030 and Vision 2040, we look forward to developing more business that serves our mutual interests," he said.

Engineer Said bin Ali Al-Abri, Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry branch in North Al-Batinah and head of the delegation, delivered a speech stating that this initiative embodies the depth of brotherly relations between our two countries and highlights the importance of continuous cooperation and communication.

He expressed the desire to



strengthen ties and exchange experiences for the benefit of both nations, noting that their visit aims to explore commercial and investment opportunities between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in addition to presenting available investment opportunities.

He stated that during this visit, they aim to find promising opportunities in the Kingdom, enhance trade and economic cooperation, and increase the volume of exports between the two countries, as well as exchange expertise in various economic fields and build bridges of cooperation.

This visit comes as part of efforts to enhance economic, trade,

and investment relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Engineer Said Al-Abri also mentioned that the trade exchange between the two countries, as of the end of June 2024, reached approximately OMR1.14 billion.

He added that the Empty Quarter Road, which connects the two countries, plays a significant role in enhancing cooperation prospects in various fields. They look forward to the Omani delegation having fruitful and beneficial opportunities during this meeting and to strengthening trade and investment ties between the two nations.

Mohammed Ramadan, Direc-

tor of Partners Management at the Saudi Ministry of Investment, presented an overview of the "Investor Voice" initiative, which is one of the impactful initiatives of the National Investment Strategy that aims to convey the priorities and challenges of investors, serving as a link between investors and the Ministry of Investment and relevant authorities.

He reviewed the initiative's pathways, including stakeholder relations and analytical reports, in addition to implementation and follow-up.

The goals of this initiative include enhancing relations with investors by understanding their priorities and challenges, contributing to improving investor participation, and fostering communication between local and foreign investors while helping to avoid future challenges and obstacles before they arise.

This was followed by a visual presentation on the National Investment Strategy, presented by Majed Al-Mulla, Director of Senior Investor Relations at the Ministry of Investment.

He discussed the roadmap of the National Strategy aimed at increasing the quality and volume of investment in the Kingdom, which

will help drive economic development in line with Vision 2030, emphasising a stronger role for the local and international private sector in priority sectors.

He also spoke about the four pillars of the strategy: competitiveness and enabling factors, financing, investors, and investment opportunities.

The meeting also included a visual presentation from the Omani side, presented by Abdulaziz bin Khalid Al-Mukhammari, a specialist in exporter services from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion.

He discussed the available investment opportunities in the Sultanate of Oman, Omani economic indicators, and the incentives and facilities provided to investors. Al-Mukhammari highlighted the importance of the Oman Export Center, which will play a crucial role in supporting the Omani economy by enhancing non-oil Omani exports and increasing their volume through promotion in targeted foreign markets.

Finally, a discussion was opened between Omani and Saudi businessmen regarding the importance of mutual cooperation to enhance economic and trade relations between the two countries.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Sarooj awarded two major road construction projects

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sarooj, a trusted leader in Oman's construction and infrastructure sector, has announced that it has been awarded of two major projects by the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology (MTCIT).

Valued at a combined total of OMR90,228,154, these projects highlight Sarooj's unparalleled ability to deliver large-scale, high-impact developments that contribute to Oman's long-term progress.



Dual carriageway road
The first project involves the construction of a dual carriageway road connecting Adam to Thumrait, spanning 120 kilometres.

This vital infrastructure will enhance regional connectivity, support economic integration, and improve transport efficiency across the Sultanate. The total

value of this project amounts to OMR70,031,554.

The second project, "Construction of roads at Jabal Shams," demonstrates Sarooj's capacity to address complex engineering challenges in mountainous terrains.

This single carriageway road, valued at OMR20,196,600, will

establish a critical link in one of Oman's most iconic and remote areas, promoting accessibility and sustainable development.

Sarooj is committed to delivering infrastructure that not only meets immediate functional needs but also aligns with Oman's broader vision of sustainable growth and innovation. With a proven track record in executing diverse and challenging projects, Sarooj integrates state-of-the-art solutions and environmentally conscious practices to ensure the highest standards of quality and sustainability.

These awards reinforce Sarooj's trusted reputation for delivering critical infrastructure projects that align with Oman's vision for sustainable development. By combining technical expertise, innovative practices, and an unwavering commitment to quality, Sarooj continues to play a key role in shaping the Sultanate's future.

ASYAD GROUP

Heavy lift cargo from Thailand to Sohar successfully delivered

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Asyad Group has once again showcased its exceptional logistics expertise and global capacity by completing the successful transport of four oversized coils for OQ Refinery & Petroleum Industries Company (OQ RPI) from Laem Chabang Port in Thailand to Sohar Port.

This high-profile breakbulk operation, executed with meticulous precision—from expert packing at the origin to smooth unloading in Sohar—demonstrates Asyad's ability to provide seamless, door-to-door logistics solutions for heavy lift cargo.

The specialised nature of the cargo demanded expert handling, further underscoring Asyad's expertise in managing complex logistics operations efficiently and positioning it among the leading global end-to-end logistics providers, delivering exceptional client-focused results while maintaining

quality and safety standards.

Juma Al Maskari, Director of Asyad Logistics, emphasised the importance of tailored logistics solutions and global presence: "This successful move highlights our extensive capabilities and the strength of our in-house expertise to analyse the challenge and derive safe and competitive solution for our client. Our ability to handle heavy lift cargo efficiently reflects our capacity to deliver customised solutions that meet the specific needs of our clients. These operations reinforce Oman's growing role as a strategic logistics hub for global trade."

"It also reflects the significance of SOHAR Port, recognized as one of the leading ports in the region due to its advanced infrastructure. This infrastructure enables the efficient handling of heavy and complex shipments. The role of C. Steinweg Oman, the operator of the general cargo terminal at the port, is crucial in facilitating han-

dling and storage operations."

"This, in turn, enhances the port's competitiveness and supports both local and global supply chains," he added. Mohammed Al Ruwaidhi, VP Aromatics & Energy, OQ RPI said: "This successful delivery of the coils demonstrates the strength of our collaboration with Asyad Group."

Asyad's expertise in handling complex logistics operations has been critical to ensuring the safe and timely arrival of these vital components, supporting our commitment to operational excellence and the ongoing growth of Oman's industrial capabilities." Asyad continues to drive Oman's ascent as a global logistics hub, offering comprehensive logistical services that enhances the nation's expanding trade. With every seamless execution of shipments, Asyad strengthens its role in advancing Oman's Vision 2040, positioning the country as a leading hub for global commerce and investment.

OMAN CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE

150 exhibitors from 18 countries take part in Oman AgroFood 2024

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman AgroFood 2024, the 6th International Trade Exhibition for Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries, commenced on Monday with an inspiring inaugural ceremony led by Saud bin Hamoud bin Ahmed Al Habsi, Minister of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth & Water Resources.

The much-anticipated event, jointly organised by International Fairs & Promotions (IFP Group) and Al Nimr Expo, will run from December 2 to 4, 2024, at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre, with daily hours from 11 AM to 7 PM.

Following the grand opening, Saud Al Habsi, accompanied by

a delegation of esteemed officials and industry leaders, toured the exhibition floor, engaging with exhibitors who are showcasing groundbreaking solutions and cutting-edge technologies. Exhibitors and visitors actively exchanged ideas and explored potential collaborations.

Oman AgroFood 2024 features a diverse lineup of over 150 exhibitors from 18 countries, including Afghanistan, Algeria, Belarus, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Libya, Netherlands, the Sultanate of Oman, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan. These exhibitors are presenting the latest advancements in agriculture, food production, and fish-

eries, reinforcing Oman's position as a central hub for innovation and sustainable development in these critical sectors.

Prominent sponsors such as A'Saffa, Nakheel Oman Development Company, Oman Food Investment Holding Co., Agricultural and Fisheries Development Fund, Agro Trade Services, and Asyad are proudly supporting the event, showcasing their commitment to driving the growth and modernisation of Oman's agri-food industry.

This year, Oman AgroFood is elevating the business experience with the introduction of a B2B Matchmaking Platform, facilitating strategic one-on-one meetings between key stakehold-

ers, industry professionals, and decision-makers.

As Oman AgroFood 2024 continues, it stands as a critical forum for fostering partnerships, attracting investment opportunities, and enhancing international trade relations.

The exhibition provides an unparalleled platform for professionals and innovators to connect, share expertise, and drive forward sustainable solutions for the agriculture, food, and fisheries sectors.

Don't miss your chance to experience Oman's largest gathering of agri-food professionals.

Oman AgroFood 2024 continues until December 4, 2024, at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre.



MARKET



MSM index ends lower

A total number of 903 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR2.95 million

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,569.60 points, down by 0.19% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.64% at 418.14 points. Majan Glass was the top gainer while, Al Suwadi Power was the top loser. Shares of OQEP were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 903 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR2.95 million, with more than 11.04 million shares changing hands.

Out of 47 traded securities, 17 advanced, 13 declined, and 17 remained unchanged.

At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR495,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR348,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR147,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,714.02 points, up 0.08%. Prices of Oman United Insurance, United Finance, Al Madina Takaful, Bank Nizwa, Bank Muscat were up by 6.52%, 3.57%, 1.25%, 1.03%, 0.79% respectively.

Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Sohar International Bank, Oman & Emirates Investment were down by 1.49%, 1.46%, 1.39% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,257.89 points, up 0.04%. Prices of Majan Glass, Oman Chromite, Oman Fisheries, Oman Cement were up by 100.00%, 5.24%, 2.94%, 1.33% respectively. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Al Maha Ceramics, Oman Cables Industry were down by 2.50%, 1.54%, 0.40% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.85% before closing at 1,740.63 points. Prices of National Gas, Barka Water & Power Company, Oman Oil Marketing, Abraj Energy, Oman Telecom were up by 6.41%, 3.90%, 2.86%, 0.73%, 0.11% respectively.

Prices of Al Suwadi Power, Al Batinah Power, Oman National Engineering, OQ Gas Networks, Renaissance Services were down by 9.09%, 9.09%, 4.88%, 0.75%, 0.53% respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,578.38	4,567.75	4,569.60	4,578.38	-8.77	-0.19
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,718.83	7,692.74	7,714.02	7,707.84	6.18	0.08
Industry Index	5,272.44	5,222.08	5,257.89	5,255.61	2.28	0.04
Services Index	1,755.47	1,736.00	1,740.63	1,755.47	-14.84	-0.85
MSX Shariah Index	418.29	412.05	418.14	415.46	2.67	0.64
MSX TR INDEX	6,406.96	6,392.10	6,394.69	6,395.71	-1.02	-0.02
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,769.38	8,739.74	8,763.92	8,756.90	7.02	0.08
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,083.14	6,025.04	6,066.35	6,063.73	2.63	0.04
SERVICES TR IDX	2,089.82	2,066.64	2,072.16	2,065.83	6.33	0.31
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,067.21	1,067.21	1,067.21	1,066.89	0.33	0.03

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
11,042,602	2,945,620	903	27,431,793,648	17	13	17	47

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

SEC. NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF BD.	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BD.	LAST OFF.	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	3,000	715	2	0.235	0.245	0.235	0.245	0.010	0.015	6.522	0.245	0.000	0.240	0.100	24,500,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	85,673	4,888	6	0.057	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.006	0.002	3.571	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.100	20,655,383
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	3,000	1,146	1	0.382	0.382	0.382	0.382	0.377	0.005	1.326	0.382	0.376	0.405	0.100	126,393,375
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	70,766	5,666	9	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.001	1.250	0.081	0.076	0.086	0.100	14,175,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	392,360	99,992	16	0.255	0.255	0.254	0.255	0.253	0.002	0.791	0.255	0.252	0.256	0.100	1,914,131,251
OM0000008694	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	61,512	17,025	21	0.276	0.278	0.276	0.278	0.276	0.002	0.725	0.278	0.268	0.278	0.100	214,115,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	200,770	183,462	5	0.912	0.917	0.911	0.917	0.916	0.001	0.109	0.917	0.912	0.917	0.100	687,720,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	817,056	227,142	59	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.000	0.000	0.278	0.278	0.298	0.100	452,013,087
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	70,581	24,084	15	0.342	0.342	0.340	0.342	0.342	0.000	0.000	0.342	0.341	0.342	0.100	22,580,976
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	10,000	1,000	2	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.098	0.100	0.100	22,000,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	343,577	25,354	18	0.073	0.075	0.073	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.074	0.080	0.100	6,660,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	196,736	16,329	10	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.083	0.085	0.100	16,600,000
OM0000003969	OOREDOO	11,890	2,915	4	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.000	0.000	0.245	0.240	0.245	0.100	159,493,336
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	56,666	5,440	5	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.095	0.098	0.100	91,638,907
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	2,766	1,043	1	0.377	0.377	0.377	0.377	0.379	-0.002	0.528	0.377	0.377	0.387	0.100	89,126,570
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	953,615	127,074	71	0.134	0.134	0.133	0.133	0.134	-0.001	0.746	0.133	0.133	0.134	0.100	575,972,981
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	38,778	2,753	5	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.072	-0.001	1.389	0.071	0.069	0.071	0.100	8,653,125
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	297,258	40,415	16	0.137	0.137	0.135	0.135	0.137	-0.002	1.460	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.100	893,328,246
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	191,826	22,559	12	0.119	0.119	0.117	0.117	0.123	-0.006	4.878	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.100	17,560,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	56,310	3,822	9	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.077	-0.007	9.091	0.070	0.070	0.076	0.100	47,242,120
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	53,065	3,715	12	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.077	-0.007	9.091	0.070	0.070	0.080	0.100	50,008,444
Total	21	3,911,205	816,237	299												
Parallel Market																
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	623,482	50,712	66	0.078	0.084	0.078	0.083	0.078	0.005	6.410	0.083	0.081	0.083	0.100	7,055,000
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	3,505	13,105	9	3.420	3.999	3.420	3.999	3.800	0.199	5.237	3.999	3.500	4.000	0.100	13,196,700
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	1,785,100	571,234	15	0.338	0.338	0.320	0.320	0.308	0.012	3.896	0.320	0.320	0.338	0.100	51,200,000
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	135	97	1	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.700	0.020	2.857	0.720	0.630	0.750	0.100	44,118,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	620,396	60,789	20	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.097	0.001	1.081	0.098	0.096	0.102	0.100	219,221,397
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	1,410	164	3	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.115	0.001	0.870	0.116	0.115	0.120	0.100	58,940,011
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	3,217,152	1,135,463	400	0.353	0.354	0.352	0.353	0.352	0.001	0.284	0.353	0.353	0.353	0.100	284,000,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	29,000	1,276	3	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.000	0.044	0.100	13,514,438
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	292,590	28,037	18	0.096	0.097	0.094	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.086	0.095	0.100	19,283,712
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	5,000	205	1	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.000	0.000	0.041	0.040	0.041	0.100	10,250,000
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	50,969	7,291	2	0.146	0.146	0.145	0.146	0.146	0.000	0.000	0.146	0.146	0.147	0.100	243,725,860
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	67,981	3,943	11	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.100	84,830,885
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	3,645	244	1	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.067	0.070	0.100	10,421,877
OM0000007407	DHOFAIR GENERATING	10,000	630	1	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.058	0.063	0.100	14,001,120
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	99,160	6,941	7	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.100	35,604,191
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	1,000	2,490	1	2.490	2.490	2.490	2.490	2.500	-0.010	-0.400	2.490	2.490	2.750	0.100	223,353,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	54,138	3,578	5	0.066	0.067	0.066	0.066	0.067	-0.001	1.493	0.066	0.066	0.067	0.100	14,003,880
OM0000005006	ALMAHA CERAMICS	11,888	6,677	12	0.130	0.130	0.128	0.128	0.128	-0.002	1.538	0.128	0.128	0.143	0.100	7,040,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	961	375	3	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.400	-0.010	-2.500	0.390	0.390	0.395	0.100	31,747,073
Total	19	6,917,506	1,893,361	579												

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES

Oman and Belarus explore cooperation

MUSCAT: Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources received in his office yesterday Vadim Shagoiko, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food in the Republic of Belarus.

The meeting discussed aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the areas of agricul-

tural and fisheries, livestock, water resources and food security.

Exchanging expertise

The two sides also discussed the potential of for cooperation in research and scientific studies in the Sultanate of Oman, as well as exchanging expertise and mutual visits between the two sides. — OMA



AT MUSCAT UNIVERSITY'S CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

Sohar International's CTO delivers insightful sessions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar International, Oman's best bank, continues to strengthen its commitment to societal development through strategic initiatives that enhance learning and professional growth within the local community.

In line with this commitment, Dr. Saud Al Shidhani, Chief Transformation Officer at Sohar International, recently conducted two expert-led sessions at Muscat University centered on Customer Experience (CX).

These sessions, designed for undergraduates, alumni, and postgraduate participants, aimed to equip emerging business leaders with critical skills to optimise customer satisfaction and drive long-term loyalty.

Emphasising the significance of initiatives like the Customer Experience Programme, Dr. Al Shidhani said the importance of programmes like the Customer Experience initiative, stating, "Through such efforts, Sohar International endeavours to bridge the gap between academic theory and real-world application, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of customer experience and its significant impact on sustainable business growth."

"In today's highly competitive environment, where customer expectations are continually evolving, a well-rounded approach to CX is essential. This programme empowers students to navigate the complexities of customer satisfaction and design experiences that engage diverse audiences effectively."



LIFESTYLE

GOOGLE CHROME TO ADD AI-POWERED STORE REVIEWS FEATURE

Called “Store reviews,” this feature will provide users with AI-generated summaries of reviews from various independent platforms, including Trustpilot, ScamAdvisor, and Google.

Google Chrome is testing a new AI-powered feature designed to enhance online shopping safety and user experience.

Called “Store reviews,” this feature will provide users with AI-generated summaries of reviews from various independent platforms, including Trustpilot, ScamAdvisor, and Google.

When encountering an unfamiliar online store, users will be able to access this

feature through the “View page information” option in the address bar. By clicking on the “Store review” option, users can view an AI-generated summary of reviews from these platforms, offering insights into the stores reputation and helping them make informed decisions about whether to proceed with their shopping.

This feature aims to protect users from potential scams and low-quality shopping experiences by providing a quick and easy way to assess the trustworthiness of online stores. The integration of AI into this feature aligns with Google Chromes strategy to leverage AI capabilities to streamline access to critical information and enhance user experience. -ONA



SPORTS

OVER 200 PLAYERS TOOK PART

Oman Grand Prix Badminton Tournament Season 3 concludes at AMM Sports Arena

MUSCAT: The AMM Sports Arena, in collaboration with the Oman Racket Sports Committee (ORSC), celebrated the successful conclusion of the Oman Grand Prix Badminton Tournament Season 3 recently. Held over two exhilarating weekends - November 8-9 and 15-16 - the tournament brought together over 200 players from Oman, India, Indonesia, the UAE, Iran, and the UK, setting a new benchmark for participation and inclusivity. This year's tournament, which featured 24 categories across singles, doubles, and mixed doubles, offered opportunities for seasoned professionals and emerging talent alike. The matches showcased remarkable athleticism, tactical brilliance, and intense competition, particularly in the senior categories, which left spectators on the edge of their seats. The tournament provided a vibrant platform for players of all ages and



experience levels, emphasizing the growth of badminton at both grassroots and elite levels. The enthusiastic turnout of spectators, both local and international, added an electrifying atmosphere to the matches. Their support not only motivated the players but also demonstrated the growing popularity of badminton in the region. The tournament further elevated its appeal with a generous prize pool of over

OMR4,000, distributed among winners and runners-up in each category, ensuring high stakes and exceptional performances. The closing ceremony was graced by notable dignitaries, including Abdul Rahim Muslem Droushi, Chairman of the Oman Racket Sports Committee, and Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali, CEO of Muscat Media Group. In his address, Droushi commended the organisers for their



dedication to promoting badminton and other racket sports in Oman. He emphasised the importance of such events in nurturing young talent and strengthening international sports exchanges. Zadjali echoed these sentiments, highlighting the role of media coverage in inspiring future generations of athletes. The success of the tournament would not have been possible without the unwavering support of



sponsors and partners, including Mazoon Dairy, Al Danube, Friendi, WAQ, and several others, such as Al Raid Starcool, Victor, Lulu Exchange, Oasis, Skyrays Global, MBE (Yonex), Kenz, Gulf Medical Supplies, Golden Ghubra, Zubair Electric, Fahad Business, Kriston System, Aero Trans, Joyalukkas, and GCL. Their contributions played a pivotal role in delivering a professional platform for players

to showcase their talent and fostering a spirit of unity and sportsmanship. Following the success of Season 3, AMM Sports Arena and ORSC have reaffirmed their commitment to advancing badminton in Oman and beyond. The recent success stands as a testament to the passion, talent, and dedication driving the sport's growth in the region, setting the stage for even greater achievements in the future.

Seales’ sensational spell puts West Indies in command

Bangladesh crumble for 164 on the second day of the second Test in Kingston

KINGSTON: Jayden Seales delivered a masterclass in precision and discipline, registering jaw-dropping figures of 15.5-10-5-4 to help West Indies dismiss Bangladesh for a paltry 164 on Day 2 of the second Test at Sabina Park on Sunday. His effort marked the most economical bowling performance in Test cricket since 1977 (minimum 60 balls). By stumps, the hosts had reached 70 for 1, with Kraigg Brathwaite and Keacy Carty steadying the ship after the early loss of Mikyle Louis. Shamar Joseph set the tone



for the West Indies, dismantling the Bangladesh middle order in a dramatic collapse. From 83 for 2, Bangladesh nosedived to 98 for 6 in the space of just 34 balls. Shamar's first breakthrough came when he ended a patient 73-run partnership between Shadman Islam and Shahadat Hossain, uprooting Shahadat's stumps for 22. The damage continued as Shamar induced a top-edged pull from Jaker Ali, resulting in a straightforward catch for Joshua Da Silva behind the stumps. In his next over, Shamar drew an edge from Shadman, who fell for a resilient 64, giving Da Silva his fourth catch of the innings. Amid this flurry, Seales chipped in by removing Litton Das, who nicked to first slip for just 1. After the collapse, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Taijul Islam defied the West Indies bowlers with a gritty 41-run stand spanning 116 balls. Their resistance ended when Alzarri Joseph's short-ball barrage finally bore fruit, with Taijul

fending one to third slip. From there, Seales mopped up the tail in style. Taskin Ahmed fell first, attempting a pull shot that resulted in an edge parried by Da Silva to Alick Athanaze at second slip. Seales then dismissed Mehidy, who top-edged a hook to fine leg, and cleaned up Nahid Rana's leg stump to wrap up the innings. Bangladesh's bowlers began their defense with discipline, conceding just 16 runs in the ten overs before tea. Nahid Rana impressed with his pace, consistently breaching the 150kph mark and claiming the wicket of Louis for 12. Taijul Islam, extracting grip and turn from the surface, bowled seven maidens in his ten overs, tying down Brathwaite and Carty but failing to break their stand. The duo ensured there were no further hiccups, guiding the West Indies to 70 for 1 at stumps. **Brief scores:** Bangladesh 1st innings: 164 (Shadman 64, Mehidy 36, Seales 4-5, Shamar 3-49) vs West Indies 1st innings: 70/1 (Brathwaite 33*, Rana 1-28). - Agencies

FIRST T20I VS ZIMBABWE

Pakistan secure 57-run victory



BULAWAYO: A new-look Pakistan team overcame a shaky start to claim a 57-run win against Zimbabwe in the first T20I of the series on Sunday. A late surge from Tayyab Tahir and Irfan Khan, who added an unbroken 65 off 34 balls, helped Pakistan recover from a middle-order slump to post 165. Zimbabwe, buoyed by a flying start from Sikandar Raza and Tadiwanashe Marumani, were cruising at 75 for 2 in eight overs before a catastrophic collapse saw them lose their final eight wickets for just 31 runs. Saim Ayub, a late addition to the Pakistan squad, played a crucial role at the top of the order. His early aggression, combined with Omair Yousaf's fortuitous but effective knock, propelled Pakistan to 49 in the first five overs. However, Zimbabwe clawed back through Sikandar Raza, whose four overs of pinpoint bowling yielded just 14 runs and dried up Pakistan's scoring for much of the middle overs. Between the seventh and 19th over, the visitors managed only 79 runs as Zimbabwe's spinners, led by Raza, applied the brakes effectively.

Despite the mid-innings stagnation, Pakistan rallied in the final overs. Tayyab Tahir and Irfan Khan hammered 34 runs off the last two overs, giving the visitors a competitive total on a good batting track. Zimbabwe's chase began with promise. Even after early dismissals, Marumani and Raza's explosive powerplay saw them reach 50 quicker than Pakistan. Marumani smashed 20 off Jehanand Khan's over, while Raza added flair with three consecutive boundaries off Abrar Ahmed. At 75 for 2, Zimbabwe seemed on course, but a careless run-out derailed their momentum. Haris Rauf and Sufiyan Muqeem then orchestrated a collapse, with Raza left stranded as wickets tumbled at the other end. Muqeem's three wickets and a sharp catch from Ayub to dismiss Raza sealed Zimbabwe's fate. Abrar Ahmed wrapped up the innings, ensuring Zimbabwe were bowled out for 108. **Brief scores:** Pakistan 165/4 (Tayyab 39, Usman 39; Raza 1-14) beat Zimbabwe 108 in 15.3 overs (Raza 39; Muqeem 3-20, Abrar 3-28) by 57 runs. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Bellingham, Mbappe score as Real Madrid beat Getafe

MADRID: Goals for Jude Bellingham and Kylian Mbappe moved Real Madrid a point behind La Liga leaders Barcelona with a 2-0 victory over Getafe on Sunday. Bellingham scored a penalty with half an hour played after Allan Nyom had dragged Antonio Rudiger to the floor during a corner routine. The England midfielder set up the second eight minutes later when he threaded a ball through for Mbappe, who took a touch before slotting into the bottom corner. Getafe's best chance came when Christantus Uche span away from Rudiger and fired a fierce effort against the post, with Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois beaten. A thumping strike from another substitute, John Patrick, hit the crossbar and post as the visitors searched for a way back into the game. But Carlo Ancelotti's side could have been further ahead when



Brahim Diaz controlled the ball with his chest and lobbed keeper David Soria but could only find the roof of the net while Fede

Valverde's low shot from the edge of the area was pushed past the post. Mbappe should have added to his tally of eight league goals when

sent clear and the Frenchman dribbled around Soria, but the angle was against him when he finally got his shot away. - Agencies

ITALIAN SERIE A

Fiorentina's Bove in intensive care after collapse on pitch

FLORENCE: Fiorentina midfielder Edoardo Bove is in intensive care in hospital after collapsing on the pitch during his side's Serie A match against Inter Milan on Sunday. The match was suspended after the incident in the 16th minute before later being abandoned. A Fiorentina statement said Bove's vital signs were stable when

he arrived at hospital and the player is "currently under pharmacological sedation and hospitalised in intensive care". The Italian club have said he will be re-evaluated in the next 24 hours. "He arrived at the emergency room in stable hemodynamic conditions and the first cardiological and neurological tests performed

have ruled out acute damage to the central nervous system and the cardio-respiratory system," the statement concluded. Bove, 22, suddenly fell to the ground, causing a stoppage in play with both sets of players immediately signalling for the medical staff to enter the field before forming a protective ring around him. He was taken away on a stretch-

er and put into a waiting ambulance after the referee asked both set of players to leave the pitch. The midfielder joined Fiorentina on a season-long loan from Roma in August, with a view to make the deal permanent. His first goal for La Viola came in October against his parent club. Fiorentina are third in Serie A, level on points with Inter. - Agencies

Changan CS95: The perfect seven-seater SUV for modern families

Designed to cater to the needs of modern families, this SUV offers an unparalleled driving experience with its advanced features, spacious interior, and exceptional performance

MUSCAT: The Changan CS95 is redefining the family SUV segment with its seamless combination of style, functionality, and cutting-edge technology. Designed to cater to the needs of modern families, this seven-seater SUV offers an unparalleled driving experience with its advanced features, spacious interior, and exceptional performance.

Under the hood, the CS95 houses

a powerful 2.0 T GDI engine that delivers 224 horsepower and a maximum torque of 390Nm. Paired with an 8-speed automatic gearbox, the SUV ensures smooth power delivery and adaptability across different terrains, supported by 2WD and AWD driving modes. With dimensions of 4949mm in length, 1930mm in width, and 1790mm in height, and a generous wheelbase of 2810mm,



the CS95 provides a commanding presence on the road and ample space for passengers. The SUV's intelligent grille technology optimises performance and fuel efficiency by adjusting to varying driving conditions. Its innovative design elements include a striking dot matrix grille, through-taillight styling, and 20-inch wheels that enhance its confident

and sophisticated stance. Inside, the CS95 is a haven of luxury and comfort. Nappa leather seats with quilting and punching technology, an 8-way adjustable driver's seat with memory function, and ergonomic enhancements ensure a comfortable journey, even on long drives. The panoramic skylight spanning 1.14 square meters floods the cabin

with natural light, creating a bright and airy environment. For tech-savvy families, the CS95 offers an impressive array of advanced features, including a 540° HD camera, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and a 3D display for enhanced visibility. The spacious cabin also includes independent rear air conditioning and air purification systems to maintain a fresh and healthy atmosphere, making every drive enjoyable and stress-free. Safety is a top priority in the CS95, with its comprehensive suite of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS). Features like Lane Departure Warning, Traffic Jam Assist, Blind Spot Detection, and Rear Collision Warning provide added protection and peace of mind for drivers and passengers. Practicality is another hallmark of the CS95, offering flexible seating configurations and a generous trunk space of up to 2000L with the second and third rows folded

flat. Whether it's a family road trip or a daily commute, this SUV is designed to meet every storage need with ease. Combining elegance, performance, and family-focused functionality, the Changan CS95 stands out as a reliable and stylish choice for those who seek more from their driving experience. Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE) offers state-of-the-art showrooms located in Al Qurum, Al Mawallah, Al Sohar, Ibri, and Salalah, along with additional sales centres in Nizwa, Barka, and Sur. AGAE's main service centre in Azaiba, Muscat, provides comprehensive services across Oman, covering ten key branch locations. For more information, contact Changan Oman at the toll-free number 80050800, via WhatsApp at 94641010, or visit the showroom in Al Qurum. One can visit and register at www.changanoman.com to book test drives and request a callback.

OMAN'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

BankDhofar organises camel race events celebrating tradition

MUSCAT: BankDhofar announced that it has organised its first camel races events as part of the bank's commitment to support heritage activities and preserve Oman's folklore. The first event was held in Al Kamel Wal Wafi in Al Sharqiah Governorate, the second race was held at Maydan Al Mushrif in Al Mudhaibi, while the third race was held at Al Bashayer Square in Adam, and the last round of camel races concluded in Barka. The races were attended by some of the best camel racers in the provinces, celebrating camel owners and those interested in this authentic heritage, honouring a tradition that has been an integral part of the cultural identity of the Sultanate of Oman for centuries. The races were attended by a number of invitees, including sheikhs and officials from different governorates, a number of the Bank's executive team members, as well as fans of this authentic Omani heritage. The festival included camel races that reflect the richness of Oman's cultural heritage. The races consisted of several runs for the participating camels, and the race activities witnessed a great response from the public and camel racing enthusiasts from residents of the neighbouring states and regions. Camel racing, a sport that embodies the spirit of endurance and teamwork, aligns with BankDhofar's core values of collaboration, performance driven and building relationships within the community. The camel race event attracted



active participation from across Oman and the region. Speaking on the occasion, Talib bin Mohamed Al Hajri, AGM - Interior Branches at BankDhofar said, "We at BankDhofar realize the importance of organising and participating in events that are of interest to the community, and since traditional camel racing is very popular in Oman and attracts a large number of people who love this popular sport. It also promotes basic heritage values as well as the spirit of competition between racers, and celebrates Omani history and traditions. Therefore, BankDhofar's organisation of such events confirm the bank's interest to revive Oman's traditional heritage, as these events serve to promote the cultural heritage of the Sultanate of Oman." The initiative comes within the bank's framework of community

support and involvement in various activities that aim to promote the Omani culture and heritage. BankDhofar remains committed to supporting initiatives that celebrate the Omani traditions and contribute to the communities it serves. The combination of the thorough vision of the bank, the comprehensive strategy that revolves around following best international banking practices and providing best customer experience, as well as commitment to community development and contribution to the growth of the national economy, placed BankDhofar on top of the list of best banks in the region. With a branch network of 129 branches and over 360 ATMs, CDMs, FFMs and MFKs across The Sultanate of Oman, BankDhofar is one of the fastest growing Banks in Oman.

GULF GREAT SANDS

Foton View CS2 Diesel Van officially launched in Oman

MUSCAT: Gulf Great Sands LLC, the exclusive importer of Foton vehicles in Oman, has officially launched the Foton View CS2 Diesel Van, bringing a new level of space and capability to Oman's commercial vehicle market. Available in widebody and high roof configurations, the Foton View CS2 Diesel Van is designed to meet the diverse needs of businesses, offering a spacious, dependable solution for a variety of cargo transport requirements. Powered by a robust 2.0-litre turbo diesel engine, the Foton View CS2 delivers 137 horsepower at 3500 rpm and a maximum torque of 300 Nm between 1800 and 2600 rpm. With its 6-speed manual transmission, the van provides smooth and precise gear shifts, ensuring an effortless driving experience across varying road conditions and load requirements. The Foton View CS2's widebody structure, measuring 1920 mm in width and paired with a high roof standing at 2285 mm, delivers an expansive interior ideal for ample cargo storage. With a length of 5390 mm and a wheelbase of 3110 mm, the van offers impressive stability and agility, making it suitable for both urban and long-distance transportation. Tailored specifically for businesses, the high roof model's 3-seater configuration comfortably accommodates the driver and two passengers, with the remaining space optimized for efficient cargo handling. The van's exterior is built for practicality, featuring 195R15C steel wheels for enhanced durability, a side sliding



door, and a rear lift door for easy loading and unloading. Inside, the Foton View CS2 is equipped with essential comfort and convenience features, including hydraulic power-assisted steering, an integrated audio system supporting MP3, AUX, and USB connectivity, and remote central locking. The electric front windows feature one-touch functionality, and air conditioning keeps the cabin comfortable even on the hottest days. Safety remains a top priority, with features such as Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Electronic Brake-force Distribution (EBD), and Electronic Stability Control (ESC), which together ensure superior handling and braking control. The van also includes dual airbags and front fog lamps for enhanced driver safety, and reverse sensors aid in navigating tight spaces. A spokesperson for Gulf Great

Sands LLC (GGS) stated, "Foton is proud to introduce the View CS2 Diesel Van to the Omani market. With its spacious design, reliable performance, and advanced safety features, this vehicle is well-suited for the country's demanding transportation needs. We are confident that it will serve as a valuable asset for businesses seeking a robust solution for their operations." Gulf Great Sands LLC (GGS) has partnered with Foton Motor Group, one of the world's leading commercial vehicle manufacturers, to bring a full range of Foton's vehicles to Oman. This exclusive distribution agreement includes models such as the Foton View 13-seater minibus, Aumark light-duty trucks, and Tunland pickups. GGS supports these vehicles with a state-of-the-art service centre in Ghala, Muscat, and offers periodic maintenance services in key cities like Jalan, Salalah, and Sohar.

DECCAN PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON 7

DPL: A grand celebration of cricket and community spirit

AMERAT: The Indian Social Club's Deccani Wing proudly hosted the 7th edition of the Deccan Premier League (DPL), an exhilarating annual cricket tournament that beautifully intertwines the passion for cricket with the vibrant spirit of the Deccani community. This year, the tournament featured 12 teams competing in a thrilling league format. After weeks of intense matches, the top eight teams advanced to the quarter-finals, culminating in the following semi-finalists: Deccan XI, Deccan Challengers, Deccan Stars, Team Deccan. The league matches were held at the Haya Ground, while the semi-finals and the final took centre stage at the prestigious Oman Cricket Academy Ground in Amerat. **Tournament highlights** **Semi-Final 1:** Deccan XI displayed their prowess by defeating Deccan Stars in a fiercely contested match. **Semi-Final 2:** Team Deccan, a relatively young squad, surprised everyone by overcoming the experienced Deccan Challengers. The final match was a true



spectacle of skill and determination. Team Deccan, full of youthful energy, faced off against the seasoned Deccan XI. Batting first, Team Deccan set a challenging target of 94 runs. Under the pressure of a disciplined bowling attack and an electric crowd, Deccan XI fell short, managing only 74 runs. With this remarkable victory, Team Deccan was crowned the champions of the 7th Deccan Premier League, marking a memorable chapter in the tournament's history. **Individual awards** The tournament also honored outstanding individual performances:

Best Batsman: Junaid Iqbal, recognised for his consistent and elegant stroke play throughout the league. Best Bowler: Ahmed Khan, celebrated for his lethal deliveries and match-winning spells. Player of the Tournament: Ahmed Khan, awarded for his all-round brilliance. **Event sponsorship** The event was proudly sponsored by Wujha Development, whose generous support was instrumental in the tournament's success. Their commitment to fostering community sports and engagement was deeply appreci-



ated by the Deccani Wing and all participants. Syed Anwar Ahsan, a board member of the Oman Cricket Academy, graced the occasion as the chief guest. In his address, he commended the Deccani Wing's efforts in promoting sports and unity, stating, "This tournament is a testament to the spirit of the Deccani community—passionate, united, and driven. Congratulations to Team Deccan for their exceptional performance and to all teams for their sportsmanship." **Event management** The success of the event was a result of meticulous planning and

seamless execution by a dedicated team, including Mohamed Zaheer Al Deen, Syed Naimath, Mirza, Zaki Ahmed, Fasiuddin, Mohamad Ali, and Imran, scorer mastan & Kabeer. Mansoor Sabri, Co-Convenor of the Deccani Wing, extended a warm welcome to the audience and praised the teams' sportsmanship and enthusiasm. **Celebration beyond cricket** The event was not just about cricket; it was a vibrant festival of community spirit. Spot Prizes and Games: Children enjoyed exciting games and spot prizes, ensuring they felt part

of the celebration. Food Stalls: The aroma of authentic Deccani dishes wafted through the venue, with food stalls offering a rich variety of traditional flavors. Cultural Camaraderie: Families, friends, and cricket enthusiasts came together in an atmosphere of joy and unity, making the day unforgettable. **Promoting sportsmanship** The Deccan Premier League Edition 7 was a grand success, reaffirming the Deccani Wing's commitment to promoting sportsmanship, unity, and cultural pride. The event concluded with promises of an even bigger and better tournament next year. **Esteemed sponsors** The event was made possible by the generous support of esteemed sponsors, including: Wujha Development, Salim Mohiuddin, Arabian Travels, Arabian Food, HST Signes, Sohar Aluminium, Badr Al Sama, Deccan Darbar, Golden Events, Al Omaniya, Takamul, Delight Kitchen, Sarooj Water, Nizammat Restaurant, Barzaman and Al Izz Computers.

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat continues its efforts to support Omani youth

Bank Muscat recognises the importance of developing human resources, and has established a strategic plan for developing the capabilities of Omani youth across different specialties

MUSCAT: Young people are the collar bone of society, and Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in Oman, works relentlessly to empower youth by continually organising training programmes to help them develop their professional skills and grant them access to career opportunities across the Bank's departments and branches.

It is important to examine the outcomes achieved annually in this area and explore potential future paths, creating an opportunity for growth.

Bank Muscat recognises the importance of developing human resources, and it has established a strategic plan for developing



the capabilities of Omani youth across different specialties. The Bank is committed to adopting various innovative initiatives and programmes to form a fertile environment for creative ideas and help youth to learn from the experiences of others. To effectively implement this plan, the Bank annually assess the needs of its various departments across a range of financial disciplines.

On this occasion, Said Salim Al Aufi, General Manager – Human Resources & Administration at Bank Muscat, explained: “Omani youth are active partners in the current development plans and they are the leaders of tomorrow. In the Bank, we take pride in our young employees who work across the various departments and branches. Considering their pivotal role, we are keen to provide various training and learning opportunities to help them enhance their performance and achieve their goals. I would like to take this glorious occasion to extend my appreciation to our employees for their ongoing efforts to strengthen the Bank's leadership position.”



Sharing her view on the opportunities provided by Bank Muscat for growth and development, Isra Talal Al Araimi, Acting Unit Head Family Accounts 1, said: “The Bank's culture strongly encourages professional development through training programmes and workshops. I participated in many of these courses, including finance and financial analysis, as well as courses that focus on soft skills such as negotiation and how to deal with different personalities. These courses added significant value to my work, and I advise young people to be open to contin-



uous learning and, continuously, seek advice from their colleagues and benefit from their experiences. I believe that we should also learn how to be optimistic, flexible, and willing to keep up with changes in the market.

Mohammed Abdullah Al Mukhaini, Branch Manager - Sur Al Sharia, shared the same view, saying: “Young people should be adaptable and open to new challenges, as well as strive to develop solid ties within the organization. In terms of training opportunities, I benefitted from specialized management workshops as



well as leadership programmes such as the Jadarah programme for branch managers, all of which helped me improve my financial knowledge and develop my skills, preparing me for higher-level leadership roles.”

On her part, Najla Ali Al Hasani, Senior Specialist – Technology Innovation, explained: “It is normal to face challenges at first, but the most important thing is to learn from them and continue to grow. We should embrace new prospects, as everything is an opportunity for learning, maturity and self-discovery. Change may be difficult, but by time we will find ourselves surrounded by a support network and experienced people to learn from. Bank Muscat continuously seeks to provide various training programmes to qualify national cadres and youth for leadership. I had the opportunity to participate in the High Potential Graduate Development programme and the First Time Managers Programme, which greatly enhanced my understanding and awareness of the banking sector, in addition to developing my personal skills such as working within a team and in-

novating new solutions.” Similarly, Mazin Moosa Al Farsi, Personal Banker at Burj Al Sahwa branch, said: “I am really pleased with the results I achieved as a result of the training workshops I attended, which focused on various subjects such as customer services and how to communicate with people with disabilities. For successfully applying the knowledge I gained, I was awarded the ‘Best Employee in Customer Service’ certificate. I would like to advice my fellow colleagues to achieve balance between work and personal life, as well as commit to their work, depend on themselves and stay informed about recent updates.”

Bank Muscat has a full-fledged Learning and Development department; Jadara Academy. The department focuses on developing skills and capabilities through e-learning modules, scholarships, professional certifications, management and leadership training programmes.

Bank Muscat places a high priority on continuously improving employee satisfaction and uplifting workforce morale by actively acknowledging and addressing employees' feedback, thus maintaining a professional work environment. The Bank has over 4,000 employees working in the different branches across Oman, all have access to equal opportunities to benefit from the development programmes offered. In recognition of its role in this aspect, Bank Muscat was awarded the “Best Places to Work” Award for the year 2024 from the prestigious global institution.

ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL

Renowned surgeon available at Crystal Healthcare



MUSCAT: Renowned Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, Dr. Dinesh (MDS, MOSRCS, FDS RCS), is now available at Crystal Healthcare Al Mabelah Branch.

Dr. Dinesh, a highly acclaimed oral and maxillofacial surgeon and implantologist, brings over 25 years of experience in performing surgical oral and maxillofacial procedures with unmatched precision and expertise. His exceptional skill in dental implantology has transformed countless smiles and improved oral health for patients across Oman.

For over two decades of extensive experience, Dr. Dinesh has been serving the community in Oman with dedication and professionalism. His meticulous approach and use of advanced techniques have earned him a stellar reputation for delivering superb outcomes in all his procedures.

Dr. Dinesh is now working at the Crystal Healthcare Al Mabelah Branch, where he is readily available for consultations. If you are looking for expert care and personalised treatment, feel free to reach out and book an appointment with him. Trust Dr. Dinesh for world-class oral and maxillofacial care, right here in Oman.

WITH EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS

Toyota launches Festival of Joy campaign

MUSCAT: Now is a good time to own a Toyota and benefits with exclusive Festival of Joy benefits. Get Service from 3 Years / 30,000 kms up to 6 Years / 60,000 kms (whichever is earlier), Insurance 1 Year and chance to win 1 out of 16 units of iPhone 16 Pro Max. The campaign is valid up to 23rd January 2025 (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Customers can visit any Saud Bahwan Automotive showroom for exact details.)

In Oman, Toyota offers an exciting line-up of vehicles, including the all-new Camry, Land Cruiser Prado, Corolla, Hilux, RAV4, and Yaris, each one packed with performance, style and reliability.

Since 1982, the Camry has won over drivers worldwide with its refined design, superb performance, and top-notch quality. The new Camry is available with a choice of two engines: a powerful 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine delivering 201 hp and 240 Nm of torque with an eight-speed Direct-Shift automatic transmission and an efficient hybrid version that combines a petrol engine with two electric motors for 226 hp, connected to a smooth ECVT transmission for an elevated driving experience.

The new Prado fuses its renowned Land Cruiser heritage with modern tech to tackle off-road challenges and daily drives with ease. The latest model introduces electric power steering for greater control and less road impact. Drivers can choose between a 2.4-litre turbo petrol or a 2.8-liter turbo diesel engine, both



paired with an 8-speed automatic transmission.

A trusted companion for every journey, the Corolla balances power, fuel efficiency, and advanced safety features. It's powered by a 2.0-litre four-cylinder Dynamic Force engine producing 168 hp and 20.39 kg-m of torque, paired with a Direct Shift CVT for a responsive drive. For those prioritizing fuel efficiency, a 1.6-litre version offers 121 hp and 15.7 kg-m of torque with a CVT.

Built for adventure, the Toyota Hilux offers impressive power with its 4.0-litre V6 engine producing 235 hp and 38.3 kg-m of torque. The 4X4 variant, powered by a 2.7-litre petrol engine,

is available in both a 5-speed manual and a 6-speed automatic transmission. With comfort features like an auto air conditioner with rear vents, an 8" navigation screen and a multi-information display, the Hilux is ready for any journey.

The RAV4 combines sporty styling with impressive fuel efficiency and handling. Drivers can opt for a 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine with 204 hp and 243 Nm of torque, matched with a new eight-speed Direct-Shift automatic transmission for smooth acceleration. Alternatively, the hybrid variant delivers 219 hp, powered by a petrol engine and two electric motors with an impressive fuel efficiency of 22.2

km/L, all paired with a Direct Shift CVT for an enjoyable, eco-friendly drive.

The Toyota Yaris is a compact yet dynamic choice. Powered by a 1.5-litre engine that delivers 105 hp and 138 Nm of torque, the Yaris achieves a remarkable 20.5 km/L, thanks to its Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) which provides smooth and responsive performance at any speed.

With a Toyota for every kind of driver, Oman's Toyota line-up combines reliability, efficiency and innovation to create a driving experience you can count on.

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poration are as per the GSO Conformity Certificate applicable to the model/grade. Parameters such as vehicle weight, dimensions & fuel economy could vary from the GSO Conformity Certificate due to fitment of dealer installed accessories. Pictures and colours shown may differ from actual specifications.

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