



HM GREETES PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation on the occasion of the Declaration of State Sovereignty of Russia. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Putin. His Majesty also wished the people of Russia further progress and prosperity. — **ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 49 No. 76 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, STATE COUNCIL DISCUSS COORDINATION AMONG THE STATE INSTITUTIONS

Sayyid Fahd praised the State Council's role for rendering the best services to Omani citizens

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, and several members of the Council of Ministers yesterday received Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, and members of the State Council's Office.

The meeting was held within the context of coordination between the Council of Ministers and the Council of Oman.

The two sides held an expanded meeting at the Council of Ministers building in the presence of ministers. The meeting, held in line with the Basic Law of the State and the Law of the Council of Oman, was in pursuance of continuous coordination between all institutions of the state to for-



mulate common visions on upgrading Oman's comprehensive development.

HH Sayyid Fahd commended the State Council's role in implementing the State's general policies and rendering the best services to citizens. He stressed that the government values all visions and proposals on developing public services and upgrading facilities.

During the meeting, it was agreed that all efforts should be combined to safeguard the national accomplishments and

enable the State Council to continue conducting studies and proposals on all that advances the national action.

The Chairman and members of the State Council expressed their satisfaction at the meeting and the importance of topics and opinions exchanged by the two sides. They affirmed that many of the common goals and approaches would be realized during the next stage of joint action.

The meeting discussed a number of topics, including means

of consolidating integration between state institutions through the implementation of plans and programmes. The two sides laid emphasis on promoting the mission of the ministerial coordination committee liaising between the Council of Ministers and the State Council for the realization of public aspirations. They exchanged views about means of enhancing awareness and safeguarding the accomplishments made so far in Oman under the wise leadership. — **ONA**



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Oman's public revenue touches OMR3.74 billion



MUSCAT: Oman's public revenue fell by 15 percent to OMR3.74 billion at the end of April 2024 compared to OMR4.39 billion registered over the same period in 2023. This is mainly due to a decrease in hydrocarbon and non-hydrocarbon revenues, according to the Fiscal Performance Bulletin issued by the Ministry of Finance.

At the end of April 2024, the net oil revenue amounted to OMR2.23 billion, down by 3 percent compared to OMR2.30 billion registered over the same period in 2023. The average realised oil price amounted to \$82 per barrel and average oil production reached 1.09 million barrels per day.

Net gas revenue at the end of April 2024 amounted to OMR565 million, comprising a decline by 38 percent compared to the same period in 2023. This is due to the deduction of gas purchase and transport expenses from the total revenue collected from Integrated Gas Company.

Further, current revenue reached OMR938 million at the end of April 2024, declining by OMR234 million compared to OMR1.17 billion registered over the same period in 2023.

At the end of April 2024, public spending amounted to OMR3.59 billion, decreasing by OMR275 million or by 7 percent compared to the actual spending over the same period in 2023.

Current expenditure at the end of April 2024 reached OMR2.67 billion, higher by OMR4 million compared to OMR2.674 billion registered over the same period in 2023.

Meanwhile, development expenditure of ministries and government units amounted to OMR304 million, representing 34 percent of the total spending, or OMR900 million, allocated for 2024.

Contributions and other expenses at the end of April 2024 amounted to OMR615 million, increasing by 68 percent compared to OMR365 million registered over the same period in 2023.

Social protection system, oil products, and electricity sector subsidies amounted to OMR186 million, OMR96 million, and OMR83 million respectively, by the end of April 2024. Furthermore, an amount of OMR133 million was transferred to future debt obligations budget-item. — **ONA**

PRAISES EFFORTS

Oman welcomes UN Security Council deal for Gaza ceasefire

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has welcomed the resolution issued by the UN Security Council supporting a deal to reach a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

Oman urged all parties to immediately take steps towards the implementation of this resolution.

In a statement issued on Tuesday by the Foreign Ministry, Oman expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the State of Qatar, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the United States of America to pass this draft resolution.

In this context, Oman called upon the international community to implement the resolution and compel the Israeli occupation state not to evade its responsibilities and to respect international demands to stop its brutal aggression on the Gaza Strip.

The statement also stressed the need for concrete action leading to the Two-State Solution and the establishment of an in-



Deaths
37,164
Injured
84,823

dependent Palestinian state with Al Quds A'Sharqiyah (East Jerusalem) as its capital, in a manner that supports peace and stability in the region.

The Palestinian presidency welcomed the UNSC's adoption of a draft resolution submitted by the United States. The Palestinian Presidency considered

the adoption of this resolution as a step in the right direction to stop the ongoing genocide in Gaza, calling on everyone to assume their responsibilities for its implementation.

Agression

The decision is consistent with the Presidency's demands for an immediate halt to the Israeli aggression, withdrawal of the occupation forces from the entire Gaza Strip, entry of aid, prevention of displacement, and declaring the Gaza Strip as an integral part of the State of Palestine.

The statement stressed that the Security Council's affirmation in its resolution of its firm commitment to the vision of a two-state solution, in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, requires working seriously towards implementing the political solution that leads to ending the occupation and establishing an independent Palestinian state. — **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN National Museum holds cultural event

1 The National Museum organised a cultural evening at the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. The event, titled "Omani Cultural Evening," was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, the Embassy of Oman, and the State Hermitage Museum. **>A2**



OMAN Mauritanian president meets Sayyid Badr

2 President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania received at the presidential palace in Nouakchott yesterday, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister. During the meeting, they reviewed the relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Mauritania. **>A5**

WORLD Malawi V-P killed in plane crash

3 Malawi Vice President Saulos Chilima and nine other people, including his wife, were killed as the plane they were onboard crashed in the Chikangawa mountain range, CBS News reported, citing the government. Malawi President Lazarus Chakwera declared on Tuesday a national day of mourning. **>A7**

MUTUAL COOPERATION

Oman, Mauritania explore means of boosting cooperation

NOUAKCHOTT: The Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania explored the mutual cooperation relations and means of developing them to serve joint interests.

This came during a political talks session held between Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritians Abroad. The session was held in Nouakchott, Mauritania.

During the session, the two ministers explored means of boosting business and investment partnership between the two countries' private sector companies, especially in the sector of fishing, mining, energy, agriculture, logistic connection between the two countries' ports and tourism.

The two officials exchanged views on regional and international issues of common concern.

They also stressed their support for efforts aimed at prevailing security, stability and peace throughout the region and the world.



Israeli aggression

Moreover, the two ministers underscored the importance of continuing international efforts aimed at stopping the Israeli aggressive war on the Gaza Strip in Palestine.

They also underlined the importance of reaching an agreement that guarantees a ceasefire, facilitating the arrival of humanitarian relief aid, the release of all hostages on both sides, and the return of displaced Palestinians to their areas.

The two ministers reiterated the importance of resorting to international law and international humanitarian law and pushing forward efforts to hold an international peace conference in a bid to implement the two-state solution and end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.

National Museum organises cultural evening in Russia

This event was part of the Sultanate Oman participation as the guest of honour at the 27th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum



ST. PETERSBURG: The National Museum organised a cultural evening at the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg.

The event, titled "Omani Cultural Evening," was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Moscow, and the State Hermitage Museum.

This event was part of Oman participation as the guest of honour at the 27th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, which took place from June 5 to 8.

This cultural event is part of the "Oman Hall" initiative, inaugurated at the Hermitage Museum in 2020. The second edition of the Oman Hall, titled "The Omani Empire: Asia and Africa," inaugurated in December 2023.

The Omani delegation was led by Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion. On the Russian side, it was headed by Maxim Gennadievich Reshetnikov, Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation.

In his speech, Jamal Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary General of the National Museum, stated, "The relationship between the National Museum and the State Hermitage Museum goes beyond strategic cooperation to true friendship." He added that this event is part of the "Oman Hall" initiative, highlighting the second edition's theme, "The Omani Empire: Asia and Africa."

Al Moosawi emphasised that this cultural event showcases positive aspects of human experiences in a multipolar world, a theme reflecting the equitable and fair development opportunities for nations and peoples, which is the main theme of the 27th forum.

The evening included performances by the Omani musical group "Skills," led by Yusuf Said Al Foori.

Guests also toured the "Oman Hall" and viewed the "Omani Empire: Asia and Africa" exhibition, which depicts the history of the Omani Empire in both Asia and Africa. It illustrates the Omanis' role in expelling the Portuguese from East Africa and establishing the vast Omani Empire, highlighting Omani cultural influences in East Africa across social, religious, political, economic, and architectural fields.



The exhibition includes 28 artefacts reflecting the history of the Omani Empire in both Asia and Africa. Notable artefacts on display include artefacts from the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said, as well as artefacts related to the Russian Federation, such as a curved single edged sword "Kittarah" dating back to al-Busaidi dynasty between the two centuries (11-13 AH/17-19 CE), believed to be used in duels aboard Omani Empire fleets. Other items include a Saidi dagger owned by Sultan Hamoud bin Mohammed al-Busaidi from the late 19th century, a chair from the 18th century (Oman and Zanzibar), and jewelry and garments attributed to Sayyida Salma bint Said al-Busaidi (1844-1924), who wrote her notable autobiography in German, titled "Memoirs of an Arabian Princess from Zanzibar."

During the international economic forum, a new agreement was signed with the State Hermitage Museum to launch the second "Hermitage Corner" exhibition at the National Museum in October. This exhibition will focus on political, diplomatic, economic, and cultural exchanges between the Central Asian khanates and the Russian imperial court in St. Petersburg.

The State Hermitage Museum is known for its vast complex of ten buildings, including the Winter Palace and other historic structures. The museum's collection features artefacts from

Eastern Europe, Russia, Greek and Roman civilisations, the Near and Far East, and Central Asian civilisations. It includes ancient to modern coins, weapons from Western Europe and the Middle East, and numerous archaeological finds.

The Hermitage employs 2,500 people, including about 250 art and archaeology experts, and attracts approximately 5.3 million visitors annually. It houses over 17,000 paintings, 12,000 sculptures, more than a million coins and medals, over 800,000 archaeological artefacts, around 360,000 applied arts pieces, and more than 600,000 graphic artworks.

The event was attended by Hamood Salim Al Towaiya, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Russian Federation; Faisal Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Azzan Qasim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary for Tourism at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism; Eng. Khamis Mohammed Al Shamakhi, Undersecretary for Transport at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology; and Professor Dr. Mikhail Piotrovsky, General Director of the State Hermitage Museum, along with members of the diplomatic corps and cultural and museum enthusiasts.

It is worth mentioning that the National Museum has adopted the "Oman Hall" initiative as part of cultural cooperation by establishing exhibitions that represent the Sultanate of Oman in museums and cultural institutions around the world.

These international exhibitions are an opportunity to enhance cultural understanding and communication between the Sultanate of Oman and other countries, providing a comprehensive view of Oman's history and present.

KUWAIT AIRWAYS



Salalah Airport receives first direct flight for Khareef 2024

Times News Service

SALALAH: Salalah Airport received first Kuwait Airways flight, carrying 220 passengers on Tuesday.

Kuwait Airways will operate 4 flights per week between Kuwait International Airport and Salalah Airport during this year's fall season, which will continue until the end of October.

Zakaria bin Yaqoub Al Harrasi, Executive Vice President of Salalah Airport, said: "This is one of the many flights to arrive from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, which will arrive with the beginning of the 2024 Khareef Dhofar season this June."

He added: "Oman Airports is fully prepared to receive visitors during this season according to scheduled flights of local and regional airlines. Flynas will operate 10 weekly flights from three major cities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with 4 flights from the capital, Riyadh, 3 flights from Dammam, and 3 flights from Jeddah, while Jazeera Airways will operate 3 direct flights from Kuwait to Salalah per week."

He explained that SalamAir will operate one direct weekly flight from Baghdad to Salalah, one from Bahrain to Salalah, and another from Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates to Salalah per week.

The Executive Vice President of Salalah Airport stressed that Oman Airports seeks to provide all necessary means to receive passengers upon their arrival or departure, and to complete travel procedures with ease, in cooperation with strategic partners.

It is worth noting that Salalah Airport recorded an increase in the number of flights by 26% during last May, bringing the total number of international and domestic flights arriving and departing through the airport to 814, compared to 645 flights during the same month of the previous year.

Last May, international flights through the airport increased by 14%, domestic flights also increased by 42%, and the number of passengers through Salalah Airport increased by 17%, reaching 95,336 last March.

Salalah Airport recorded an increase in air traffic of 29% in and 43.4% in the number of passengers during the Khareef season of 2023 until August 15, 2023, compared to the same period in 2022.

Salalah Airport won the Best Airport in the Middle East award in the "Customer Experience" for the year 2023 in the category of two million passengers, which was announced by the International Airports Council in partnership with Amadeus, the leading travel technology company.

Salalah Airport also won the award for the most dedicated airport employees in the Middle East in all categories, the award for the smoothest airport procedures in the Middle East for all categories, the award for the most enjoyable airports in the Middle East, and the award for the best airports in the level of cleanliness, for all categories, in the Middle East.

TENDER
ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Labour announces the following tenders:

Tender No.	Tender title	Last date for tender purchase online	Bid submission date
26/2024	Establishing the data warehouse system for the Ministry of Labour	Tuesday 02/07/2024 2:00 p.m.	Monday 22/07/2024 10 a.m.
27/2024	Supply and installation of batteries for the power supply devices in the central devices room in the Ministry building	Tuesday 02/07/2024 2:00 p.m.	Monday 22/07/2024 10 a.m.

- Specialized establishments may obtain the tenders' documents online through the following link, starting from Wednesday 12/06/2024 at 08:00 a.m.: [/https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om](https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om)
- Bids shall be submitted online.
- Bids shall be opened at 11:00 am on Monday 22/07/2024.

(The Ministry shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid)

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FOOTBALL

TOURISM

Oman football team secures a place in the 2027 AFC Asian Cup

MUSCAT: Oman's national football team secured a place in the 2027 AFC Asian Cup following a draw with Kyrgyzstan 1/1.

The national team also qualified for the final round of 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

Oman, who went into the game with a two point lead over Kyrgyz Republic having already secured their place in the next round, hit the equaliser that guaranteed a first place finish 12 minutes into the second half.

Harib Al Saadi fed the ball to Khalfan on the right and the full back's attempt to fire a low centre across the face of goal took a deflection off the Kyrgyz defence and Tokotaev could do little but pick the ball out of the net.

Mohammed Al Ghafri tried his luck from distance in the dying minutes as the home side sought a late winner but his unsuccessful strike meant the points were shared.

Eldiyar Zarypbekov gave the visitors the lead in the 19th minute but Abdul Aziz Khalfan levelled 12 minutes into the second half to ensure the points were shared with Oman winning the group.

The Central Asians needed only to avoid defeat by a seven goal margin to confirm their presence



in the next phase of the preliminaries and at the AFC Asian Cup finals, but Kyrgyz Republic sought to avoid any uncertainty by taking all three points.

Joel Kojo saw his 18th minute effort deflected high over the crossbar by the Oman defence after Gulzhigit Alykulov laid his pass off to the Dinamo Samarqand striker and, from the resulting corner, Kyrgyz Republic took the lead.

Murolimzhon Akhmedov swung his set-piece delivery into the six yard box and Zarypbekov bundled the ball over the line from close range.

The hosts almost responded immediately, Issam Al Sabhi hitting a wayward effort with the goal at his mercy moments after the restart while, in the 31st minute, Salaah Al Yahyaei's shot on the turn was kept out of the Kyrgyz goal when Erzhan Tokotaev spread himself to block.

Two minutes into first half injury time the visitors threatened again, this time through Alimardon Shukarov, who took aim from distance and Ibrahim Al Mukhaini palmed the strike clear in unconvincing fashion.

Nearly 300% increase in Russian tourists' arrival to the Sultanate

MOSCOW: A jump of about 300 percent was recorded in the number of Russian tourists visiting the Sultanate of Oman.

In 2023, 53,145 Russian tourists visited Oman, compared to about 13,000 tourists in 2022.

Promotional workshops organised by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism of the Russian Federation began in the Russian capital, Moscow on Tuesday. It will last for two days and include Moscow and St. Petersburg.

The workshops aim to introduce the most prominent tourism components and experiences in the Sultanate of Oman, enhance presence and increase tourism movement from the Russian market to the Sultanate of Oman, in addition to creating a promotional platform for Omani tourism companies and institutions in co-operation with Russian tourism companies.

The Ministry's delegation is headed by Azzan Qassim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism, with the participation of 20 Omani tourism institutions.

The workshops include holding bilateral meetings between major hotels, tourism companies and airlines in the Sultanate of



Oman and representatives of the important tourism companies, tour operators and travel agents in Russia, with the aim of raising the number of Russian visitors to the Sultanate of Oman.

Azzan Qassim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism, explained that the promotional workshops organised by the Ministry in the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg aim to introduce the largest and most important Russian tourism companies to the Omani market and to enhance relations between tourism operators in the Sultanate of Oman and the Russian Federation.

He added that the Sultanate of Oman is a multi-seasonal destination, famous for its natural beauty and cultural heritage, and attracts tourists from all categories. The current focus is on attracting

more travellers to experience the luxurious and diverse hospitality in the Sultanate of Oman, as the Ministry participated in the Sultanate of Oman's pavilion in the St. Petersburg Economic Forum 2024.

He stressed that the selection of the Russian cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg to organise the promotional workshops came after the success witnessed by the promotional campaigns and events carried out by the Ministry in the targeted tourist markets in various countries of the world during the past period, and during the coming period.

These efforts will be strengthened with intensive promotional programmes to enhance tourism movement to the Sultanate of Oman.

It should be noted that promotional workshops outside the Sultanate of Oman are one of the most important programmes that contribute to introducing the most important tourism components in Oman and focus on experiences to enhance tourism movement and create communication platforms between Omani tourism companies and institutions and the international tourism companies. -ONA

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TO UPGRADE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

Oman Vision 2040 Unit issues 3 new guidelines

MUSCAT: Acting in cooperation with Alizz Islamic Bank, Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit yesterday issued three guidelines on “quality management and institutional excellence”, “institutional innovation” and “application of Lean process improvement methodology”. The guidelines inaugural ceremony was presided over by HH Sayyid Kamil bin Fahd Al Said, Secretary-General at the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers.

Speaking at the ceremony, Sayyid Dr. Munthir Hilal Al Busaidi, Deputy Chairman of Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit, said that the issuance of the three guidelines reflects the efforts undertaken by Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit and its partners to support government service departments.

Emphasis was laid on providing enablers in accordance with the best international practices, said Sayyid Dr. Munthir, noting that the overall objective is to upgrade the government system in a manner that meets the expectations



of beneficiaries and enhances the competitiveness of the Sultanate of Oman. During the ceremony, Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit and Alizz

Islamic Bank signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on achieving private sector participation in the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. -ONA

RAM launches new version of National Leadership Programme

The programme serves as a testament to the Academy's dedication to empowering middle leaders and cultivating their abilities to foster excellence in performance



MUSCAT: Continuing its commitment to nurturing promising national leaders who will shape the future in alignment with Oman Vision 2040, the Royal Academy of Management launched a new version of the National Leadership Programme for the Omani Middle Management in the Private Sector Etimad.

The programme is being implemented in partnership with Emeritus and in collaboration

with Columbia Business School, Tuck Executive Education at Dartmouth, and MIT Management Executive Education.

The programme serves as a testament to the Academy's dedication to empowering middle leaders and cultivating their abilities to foster excellence in performance.

Its mission extends beyond mere goal achievement, seeking to revolutionise management in line with evolving market

trends, future prospects, and rapid transformations.

Through collaboration with esteemed national and international experts, the programme embraces the finest global practices, enriching its framework with invaluable insights and innovative approaches.

This year the programme will welcome 202 participants from diverse private sector and entrepreneurial backgrounds, organised into two cohorts.

Over the span of 7 months, participants will embark on an enriching journey consisting of four comprehensive learning units. These units will encompass specialised orientation sessions, interactive simulation workshops, and valuable insights into emerging trends.

Furthermore, participants will actively participate in meet-the-leader sessions, collaborative learning projects, and engaging virtual modules.

The programme's curriculum is designed to enhance participants' proficiencies across various domains, including digital business strategies, financial statement analysis, creative problem-solving, leadership at both individual and organisational levels, as well as innovation and change management.

Dr.Yasmeen Al Bulushi, Head of Center of Leadership Development, emphasised that the Etimad programme has epitomised exemplary models of Omani leadership.

Throughout its previous cohorts, the programme has served as a cornerstone in empowering national leaders with renewed competencies within an integrated institutional framework. This framework not only amplifies the capabilities of the participants but also equips them with a profound sense of efficiency and leadership to navigate through dynamic changes."

She remarked, "The Etimad programme stands at the forefront of investing in and cultivating national competencies, aiming to equip individuals to lead the private sector and contribute to the Omani market with adept leaders for the evolving economy." She underscored the programme's unique training components, encompassing both in-person and remote

learning units, group projects, leadership camps, and development circles.

The programme targets employees with intermediate leadership experience, specifically those who have managed departments or teams in the private sector.

From over 3,400 applicants, participants were selected through a rigorous multi-stage process. Initially, they underwent tests assessing their knowledge and skills in various administrative and practical domains, including English language proficiency, cognitive abilities, leadership scenarios, and a personal questionnaire. Successful candidates advance to a series of interviews, marking the pivotal stage in the selection process.

Etimad has left a remarkable imprint on the local context by equipping a multitude of participants from private institutions and entrepreneurial backgrounds. Their contributions have elevated the management standards of various development and economic projects across the Sultanate of Oman, directly advancing the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. This noteworthy achievement underscores the programme's efficacy in nurturing talent that serves as a catalyst for Oman's economic progress and development. -ONA

22ND INDIAN SCHOOL OPENED IN OMAN

The Indian Ambassador to Oman, Amit Narang inaugurated the Indian School in Duqm, marking the 22nd school and a new milestone for the expat community in Oman.

The event saw the participation of students, parents, and local government officials.

Scripting a new academic journey, the Indian ambassador to Oman, Amit Narang, stated that the school in Duqm marks a major contribution to the welfare of the Indian community, enabling them to thrive with families in Duqm.

He emphasised that this initiative will also contribute to the overall development of the region.

— Supplied pictures



14 CONTRACTS SIGNED

Pacts worth over OMR8.3mn signed to boost farm sector

MUSCAT: Acting in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning on Tuesday signed 14 usufruct contracts worth more than OMR8.3 million for investment in the agriculture sector.

The contracts deal with breeding poultry, cultivating frankincense, raising and marketing livestock, beekeeping and growing wheat, coffee and date palm trees. The contracts also include the establishment of a farm for producing figs, papaya fruits and seedlings and another for rearing goats.

In five governorates These projects are coming up in five governorates: Dhofar, A'Dakhiliyah, North A'Sharqiyah, South Al Batinah, Al Buraimi and Muscat.

The contracts were signed by Eng. Hamad Ali Al Nazwani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning for Housing, and representatives of companies and institutions investing in the projects.

— ONA

MEETING

Sayyid Badr conveys greetings of HM to the Mauritanian President

NOUAKCHOTT: President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania received at the presidential palace in Nouakchott yesterday, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister.

During the meeting, Sayyid Badr conveyed greetings and best wishes of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to President El Ghazouani and the people of Mauritania. His Majesty also



wished bilateral relations further progress. In his turn, the Mauritanian President asked Sayyid Badr to convey his greetings and best wishes to His Majesty the Sultan and the people of Oman.

The meeting reviewed path of relations between Oman and Mauritania. The meeting underlined the joint keenness to promote them in various spheres to serve interests of the two countries and their peoples.

The meeting also touched on a set of issues and developments at the regional and international arenas. It was attended by Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritians Abroad and Sheikh Saif Hilal Al Ma'amari, Ambassador of Oman to Mauritania.

-ONA

CABLE

His Majesty greets Philippines president

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of the Republic of the Philippines, on his country's Independence Anniversary.

Best wishes

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Marcos Jr. and the people of his country. -ONA



PROMISING OPPORTUNITIES

Oman, Mauritania sign several memoranda of understandings

NOUAKCHOTT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister met in the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott, with Mohamed Zein El Abidine Ould Cheikh Ahmed, the President of the National Union of Mauritanian Employers (UNPM).

During the meeting, the two sides explored means of boosting economic and trade cooperation between Oman and Mauritania, as well as means of augmenting joint investments in vital sectors.

They also touched on opportunities to encourage business-people in establishing partnerships and exchange expertise in areas of common interest.

Al Busaidi underscored the Sultanate of Oman's keenness to enhance trade and economic relations with Mauritania. He also lauded the promising opportunities in Mauritania in various sectors, such as energy, mining, tourism, agriculture, livestock and fisheries.

The President of the National Union of Mauritanian Employers said the Mauritanian private sector welcomes the boosting of economic cooperation with the private sector of Oman. He affirmed that the National Union of Mauritanian Employers is ready to help in overcoming any obstacles or challenges that Omani companies may face in Mauritania.



Moreover, during the visit, Oman and Mauritania signed several memorandums of understanding (MoUs) dealing with political consultations, diplomatic training, studies and research, as well as cooperation in fields of oil and gas, minerals, energy and information and communication technology (ICT).

The MoUs were signed by Sayyid Badr Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritians Abroad. - ONA

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ROYAL OMAN POLICE



Three arrested for murder of an expat in Barka

MUSCAT: Three expatriates were arrested for killing a person in the Wilayat of Barka, South Al Batinah Governorate, the Royal Oman Police (ROP) said.

ROP said in a statement: "The South Al Batinah Governorate Police Command, in cooperation with the General Department of Inquiries and Criminal Investigations, arrested three people of Asian nationality on charges of committing the murder of a person of the same nationality in the Wilayat of Barka."

The legal procedures were completed against them.

شركة اسمنت عمان
Oman Cement Company (S.A.O.C.)

P.O. BOX 185, RUW, POSTAL CODE 112, SULTANATE OF OMAN
(Factory Al Mafrah West, Bausher, Tel. # 00968 24437779 ext. 102, Fax # 00968 24437777)

TENDER

The company invites offers for the following tender:

Sl. #	Tender ID	Description	Tender Fee	Deadline for Purchasing of Tenders	Deadline for Submission of Offers
1.	1720000146-24	Operation And Maintenance Of Sewage Treatment Plants (Factory Site & Housing Complex)	RO. 52.500	11th July, 2024 1500 Hours	16th July 2024 2359 Hours
2.	1585000050-24	Operation And Maintenance Of Gas Turbine Power Plant	RO. 52.500	11th July 2024 1500 Hours	16th July 2024 2359 Hours

Tender documents can be obtained by paying the below amount online to the Company's account detailed below:

Account name: Oman Cement Company SAOG
Bank Name: Bank Muscat SAOG
Account number: 0423 01086 3070 017
Account Type: OMR
SWIFT Code: BMUSOMRX

Copy of deposit transaction of a non-refundable amount of writing on the above as tender fees to be emailed to CFOSecretary@omancement.com & Treasury@omancement.com with the Subject showing "Tender No." and "Tender Description" enabling the Company to provide tender document through email to your company. The above payment is a non-refundable amount.

Contact details: Office number: +968 22705601, Mobile number: +968 97932277.

The last date for submission of offers is on Tuesday, 2359 hours detailed date on the above table, accompanied by a bid bond issued by any local bank in Oman (equivalent to 1%) of the total tender value. The bid bond must be valid for 120 days from the last date of submission of offers and the ORIGINAL bid bond must be submitted on the tender box at the reception on our Administration Building, Al Mesfah West factory Site, Bausher, Muscat, Oman.

Any tenders received beyond the above closing time and date or not being supported by a tender bond will NOT be considered. This publication is part of the tender documents.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

NCEM reviews preparedness

MUSCAT: The National Committee for Emergency Management (NCEM) on Tuesday held at a meeting under the chairmanship of Lt.Gen Hassan Mohsen Al Shraiqi, Inspector General of

Police and Customs, Chairman of the NCEM. It reviewed the level of integration among the NCEM in terms of preparedness to deal with emergencies and methodology of responding to cases. - ONA



Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defence invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in The following tender:

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last date to submit the tender	Tender Documnet Price
SUPPLY OF RADIOLOGY AND INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES FOR THE PERIOD OF TWO YEARS	17 /2024	08/07/2024	15/07/2024	218 OMR
SUPPLY OF CATH LAB ITEMS FOR THE PERIOD OF TWO YEARS	18/2024	08/07/2024	15/07/2024	610 OMR

1. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.

2. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in oman.

NBO GLOBAL EQUITY FUND
OPEN-ENDED INVESTMENT FUND

البنك الوطني العماني
NBO

EXTENSION OF SUBSCRIPTION PERIOD

Subscription Closing Date 11th July 2024

Fund Objectives

The primary objective of the Fund is to generate returns from an actively managed portfolio comprised of equity securities listed and about to be listed on global stock exchanges including ADRs and GDRs and equity-oriented securities such as open-ended UCIT funds and ETFs investing in such listed securities.

Fund Structure

Open-ended fund investing in (i) listed and about to be listed global equity securities including ADRs and GDRs and (ii) funds such as UCIT funds and exchange traded funds (ETFs) that invest in such listed equity securities.

Initial Subscription Price

1.020 Rial Omani (including 20 Baisa as issue expenses)

Minimum Subscription for Initial Issue:

The minimum Initial Subscription shall be 2,000 Units per Subscriber and thereafter in multiples of 100 Units.

This advertisement is an extract of the summary of the prospectus of NBO Global Equity Fund ("Prospectus") approved by the Financial Services Authority of Oman ("FSA") vide its Administrative Decision No. KH/31/2024 dated 8 May 2024. NBO Global Equity Fund (the "Fund") is an open-ended investment fund established by National Bank of Oman SAOG ("NBO"), a bank registered in the Sultanate of Oman as a specialized bank and licensed as an Investment Fund Manager in accordance with the regulations of the FSA. Terms used but not defined in this advertisement shall have the meaning given to them in the Prospectus.

This advertisement summary should not be relied on for making an investment decision and is not intended to be a substitute for reading the whole Prospectus. Each investor should read the Prospectus and Articles of Association of the Fund in full before making their investment decision. This advertisement summary has been extracted from the unofficial translation of the Prospectus prepared in Arabic and approved by the FSA.

Investment Manager & Issue Manager NBO	Investment Advisor Principal	Legal Adviser th timmers & harriman	Collecting Banks NBO Capital HORIZONS بنك عمان
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OMAN/WORLD

OMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

OCCI announces new initiative to finance SMEs purchase contracts

MUSCAT: Acting in cooperation with Gulf House Investment Corporation, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) on Tuesday launched an initiative to support the financing of purchase contracts.

Empowering SMEs

The initiative seeks to empower small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to grow and expand. It covers more than 20 products and offers 90-day, interest-free contracts for entrepreneurs running SMEs.

Sheikh Ahmed Amer Al Maslahi, Head of the SMEs Commit-



tee at the OCCI, underscored the significance of this initiative, noting that it enhances the capabilities of SMEs and boosts the pur-

chasing power of individuals and companies.

He added that individuals and companies can benefit from goods

and services without having to pay the full sum in advance. This, he observed, would boost economic activity and support the commercial sector.

For his part, Mohammed Hassan Al Bahrani, owner of Gulf House Investment Corporation, said that the initiative constitutes a vital step forward in enhancing private economic activity, as it enables companies and entrepreneurs to obtain goods and services more easily.

He added this move enhances confidence in the local market and enables companies to expand their businesses. — ONA

BRICS foreign ministers reiterate commitment to combating terrorism

They stressed the primary responsibility of States in combating terrorism and the international community's efforts to stop and counter terrorist threats



The Foreign Ministers of BRICS nations held a meeting in Russia's Nizhny Novgorod on Monday.

Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations), at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), led the Indian side at the meeting, in what marks the first foreign assignment for India's foreign policy under the third consecutive term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The joint statement of BRICS Foreign Ministers read, "The Ministers expressed strong condemnation of any acts of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed. They strongly condemned the inhumane terrorist attack on 22 March 2024 at the Crocus City Hall in Moscow."

"They reaffirmed their commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border terrorism and terrorism financing and safe havens. They reiterated that

terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group and that all those involved in terrorist activities and their support must be held accountable and brought to justice in accordance with international law," it said.

The leaders welcomed the activities of the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Working Group and its five Subgroups based upon the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan. The Foreign ministers of BRICS nations looked forward to further deepening counter-terrorism cooperation. They called for an expeditious finalisation and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the UN framework.

"The Ministers urged to ensure zero tolerance for terrorism and rejected double standards in countering terrorism. They emphasized the primary responsibility of States in combating terrorism

and that global efforts to prevent and counter terrorist threats must fully comply with their obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the purposes and principles thereof, and relevant international conventions and protocols, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law," the joint statement of Foreign Ministers of BRICS nations stated.

The ministers expressed the need to comprehensively strengthen mechanisms for countering terrorists and their supporters' increased use of emerging and evolving technologies such as the Internet and other information and communications technologies, including social media platforms, for terrorist purposes, like recruitment and incitement to commit terrorist acts, as and for the financing, planning, and preparation of their activities. — ANI

TREACHEROUS JOURNEY

Migrants turn to Mauritania for new EU transit route

NOUAKCHOTT: Lala grew up in Senegal and Mauritania, where she has long dreamed of a better life.

She had saved enough money to pay for a pirogue — a traditional fishing boat that human traffickers use for their businesses.

The small fishing boat was to take her from the capital, Nouakchott, to Spain's Canary Islands. She was looking forward to a future in the EU.

But the journey was treacherous, she told DW, as she struggled to recount her ordeal.

"There were all sorts of nationalities. Malians, Cameroonians, Nigerians, Mauritaniens, Senegalese. The police themselves came to take us to the beach," Lala said.

Migrant boats often overloaded

"Not everyone could get on because there were so many of us, more than 100 or so people. Only 80 were lucky enough to get on," she said.

"I've seen people who almost went mad. Sometimes people fought with each other, but the captains have big knives, they threaten you and tell you to shut up or they'll throw you on the beach and they're not kidding."

But Lala's ordeal didn't end after she managed to get on board the boat transporting them across the sea. After four days at sea, drifting without fuel, she and other migrants ended up on a beach in northern Mauritania, where they



were held by authorities.

The foreign nationals among them were deported, but Lala, as a Mauritanian, was released.

"I haven't been able to sleep since I got back. When I sleep, I feel like I'm still in the boat rocking in the sea. Even when I close my eyes like this, I feel like I'm swinging in the sea," Lala told DW.

Lala was unable to reach Europe as she had anticipated. The crossing she attempted is one of the world's most dangerous migratory routes.

EU-Mauritania deal aims to stop migrants

In April, the EU granted €210 million (\$226 million) in aid to Mauritania, nearly €60 million of which will be invested in the fight against illegal immigration to Europe. Between January and March this year alone, around 12,393 mi-

grants disembarked on the Spanish archipelago.

In the same period last year, only 2,178 migrants arrived in the Canary Islands. Over 80% of the boats that carried the migrants departed from Mauritania or transited through its waters.

The EU is struggling to secure agreements with countries like Tunisia and Niger, who, in the past, helped to stop some of these migrant journeys.

In addition, many migrants, mostly from the Central Sahel and the Gulf of Guinea, are picking Nouadhibou in Mauritania's northwest, making it a migratory crossroads and transit city. In this city of 140,000 inhabitants, some 30,000 are migrants.

A man pulls over a small boat with migrants at La Restinga on the Canary island of El Hierro, Spain.

Ali, a fisherman, knows all too well how these illegal migrations happen. He has seen the hopeful and the desperate taking their leave by night — 50 migrants, cramming themselves into a fishing boat designed for a crew of six, he told DW.

On his phone, he showed DW pictures of some migrants who had died trying to reach EU shores.

"Look, someone sent me this photo of a dead person. These are corpses. Look, there's a little baby here," he said.

Port of Nouadhibou

The port of Nouadhibou has become a centre trading in these traditional fishing boats for human traffickers.

However, one human smuggler who chose to conceal his identity said there are restrictions and controls to the movement of the boats.



Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box 770,
Postal Code: 112

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

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ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED

French President calls for snap elections after defeat to far-right

PARIS: "It's a little bit strange," one passerby, a man called Jean-Paul, told DW in downtown Paris. "It was very surprising that Macron decided to close the parliament. I don't know what to think."

Jean-Paul was not alone in his bemusement on Monday. French President Emmanuel Macron caught the nation, including many in his own Renaissance party, off guard on Sunday when he dissolved parliament and called snap legislative elections. They will take place in two rounds on June 30 and July 7.

The surprise move came after Macron's staunchly pro-EU Renaissance party, formerly known as La France En Marche! (France on the Move), suffered a wipeout loss to the far-right National Rally (RN) in the European parliamentary elections, which has put him even more on the back foot domestically. The anti-immigration, eurosceptic RN, of which Marine Le Pen was president for 10 years before handing the reins over to its current leader, Jordan Bardella, in 2022, netted over 30% of votes, compared to 15% for Renaissance.

As the results came in on Sunday night, the French president said, "The extreme right is both the impoverishment of the French and the downgrading of our country." "So, at the end of this day, I cannot act as if nothing had happened," he said, pitching himself as giving the choice back to the people.

'It's up to the French to decide'

For Jean-Paul, the snap polls might actually have been a good call. "It would be very difficult for him to have a good government, so OK, [let's] make things clear right now, and we will see," he said.

"If the French decide to go for the extreme right, that's the choice. If they want to continue



the middle way, it's up to the French to decide."

Macron's position is not directly up for grabs in the poll; he won the 2022 presidential election against Le Pen, the RN presidential challenger, securing a second and final five-year term. But control of parliament, where Macron's party lost its majority in 2022, is in play.

On Monday, Renaissance began appealing to other centrist forces to team up against RN in the weeks to come.

If the far-right party emerges as the primary power in the French legislature next month, Macron could be forced to appoint current RN party leader Bardella as his fifth prime minister.

It could also leave the legacy of Renaissance, which he founded in 2016, in tatters.

'Calculated risk or mad gamble?'

On Sunday, the shock announcement immediately became the big story of the EU elections, with analysts across Europe scrambling to understand just what the French president was playing at.

Mujtaba Rahman, an EU expert with Eurasia Group consultancy, described it as either a "calculated risk or mad gamble."

Macron appears to be counting on a higher turnout and more cautious ballot-casting in the upcoming parliamentary elections, Rahman wrote on the social media platform X, formerly Twitter, on Monday. — DW



"You can put a lot of people in it [the fishing boats]. You saw it. For this kind of pirogue there are controls to see if they're going fishing — or for something else," he said.

EU needs friendly migration policies

Tumenta Kennedy, a migration analyst, told DW that Europe needs to review its migration policies to make them friendlier for young Africans currently choosing dangerous paths to Europe.

"Getting to go to Germany, France or Belgium to study is a nightmare," Kennedy said. "Not because you are rejected, but because to get an appointment to go through the legal means to get an appointment to the embassies to be interviewed, to be given the opportunity to express yourself is a nightmare."

Thousands of migrants contin-

ue to arrive in Mauritania, hoping to make the journey despite the risks and controls.

Mohamed, a welder, arrived in Nouadhibou with the aim of reaching Europe. As a day laborer, he earns the equivalent of €10 (about \$11) a day, which he spends on food, water and somewhere to live.

"You've seen the people here; we're looking for work. It's not easy. Morning and night we come and work. We don't earn. I've been here two months. I work everywhere," he told DW.

And Lala, despite everything she has suffered and the huge sums of money she has spent, is also determined to try again.

For her, despite the horrible memories of being at sea, she would do it all again to get to Europe, where she hopes to earn a decent living. — DW

UNSC adopts US draft resolution supporting Gaza ceasefire plan

The US-drafted text calls for Hamas to accept a ceasefire proposal announced on May 31 by President Joe Biden that has already been accepted by Israel

NEW YORK: Amid rising tensions in West Asia due to the Israel-Hamas war, which is in its eighth month now, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution vote on the US proposal for a permanent ceasefire and release of the hostages in Gaza.

The US-drafted text calls for Hamas to accept a ceasefire proposal announced on May 31 by President Joe Biden that has already been accepted by Israel.

The resolution was notably adopted with 14 votes in favour,



zero against, and one abstention by Russia, as the country chose not to exercise its veto power.

Comprehensive ceasefire deal

The resolution that is adopted aims at reaching a comprehensive ceasefire deal in three phases, according to UN News.

The first phase calls for an “immediate, full, and complete ceasefire with the release of hostages,

including women, the elderly and the wounded, the return of the remains of some hostages who have been killed, and the exchange of Palestinian prisoners.”

It demands that Israeli soldiers leave Gaza’s “populated areas,” that Palestinians be allowed to return to their homes and communities anywhere in the territory, including the north, and that humanitarian aid be distributed

widely and safely.

End to hostilities

Whereas Phase Two would see a permanent end to hostilities “in exchange for the release of all other hostages still in Gaza, and a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza,” according to UN News.

Phase three, on the other hand, would have a “major multi-year reconstruction plan for Gaza” and

Meanwhile, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said that the fighting could stop today if Hamas agrees to the deal now endorsed by the Security Council.

She asserted that Hamas should now see clearly that the international community is united, “united behind a deal that will save lives and help Palestinian civilians in Gaza start to rebuild and heal. United behind a deal that will reunite hostages with their families after eight months in captivity.”

Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield stated that there is now a chance to steer clear of the current situation and that the US will assist in making sure Israel fulfils its responsibilities, however, it would all be done “assuming that Hamas accepts the deal.”

In the resolution, the UN Security Council do not allow any attempt at demographic or territorial change in the Gaza Strip, including any actions that reduce the territory of the enclave.

It also reiterates the Council’s “unwavering commitment” to the vision of the two-state solution. “In this regard stresses the importance of unifying the Gaza Strip with the West Bank under the Palestinian Authority,” the resolution added. — Agencies

STATEMENT BY JCS

South Korean troops fire warning shots after brief border incursion

SEOUL: South Korea’s military said on Tuesday that it had fired warning shots at the weekend after some North Korean soldiers briefly crossed the border.

“Some North Korean soldiers working within the DMZ on the central front briefly crossed the Military Demarcation Line,” the South Korean joint chiefs of staff (JCS) said in a statement.

It was referring to the line of control in the heavily fortified border between the two Koreas.

“After our military issued warning broadcasts and warning shots, they retreated northward,” it said, adding the incident happened June 9.

“Apart from the immediate retreat of the North Korean soldiers following our warning shots, there were no unusual movements observed,” the JCS said, adding the

military was closely monitoring troops near the border.

The incident came amid heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula over Pyongyang’s launch of balloons carrying trash like cigarette butts and toilet paper into the South.

The North said the balloons were a response to a campaign by North Korean defectors in the South who have flown balloons carrying anti-Pyongyang leaflets in the other direction over the border. In response to the trash balloons, the South Korean government this month also suspended a 2018 tension-reducing military deal and restarted loudspeaker propaganda broadcasts along the border.

The move irked Pyongyang, which warned Seoul was creating “a new crisis.” — DW

ANGKOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

Cambodia prepares to restore centuries-old temple’s causeway

PHNOM PENH: Cambodia has prepared to restore the structure of the eastern causeway of Beng Mealea temple in the famed Angkor Archaeological Park, under the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Special Fund, the AP-SARA National Authority (ANA) said in a news release on Tuesday.

Puth Soth, a technical officer of the ANA’s Department of Conservation of Monuments and Preventive Archaeology, said a technical team is conducting an archaeological excavation on the structure of the temple’s eastern causeway for a restoration project.

“After excavating the topsoil layer, we found that the floor of the causeway had collapsed, with the weakened foundations tearing apart, causing some components of the structure such as pillars, a Naga balustrade, a Naga’s body, a Naga’s head, and many fragments



falling into the moat and some buried in the ground due to age and natural factors,” said Soth, who led the excavation work.

He added that when the excavation is completed, a restoration project on the causeway will be launched under the LMC Special Fund.

The fund, initiated by China in March 2016, aimed at supporting small- and medium-sized cooperation projects put forward by the six LMC countries.

Built in the middle of the 12th century, the layout and style of Beng Mealea temple are very similar to those of the Angkor Wat

temple, the ANA said.

Made of blue sandstone, Beng Mealea temple is one of the key temples in the 401-square-km Angkor Archaeological Park in northwest Cambodia’s Siem Reap province.

The Angkor Archaeological Park, which was inscribed on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in 1992, is the most popular tourist destination in the Southeast Asian nation.

The park attracted 472,258 international visitors in the first five months of 2024, a year-on-year increase of 37 percent, said a report from the state-owned Angkor Enterprise.

It made \$22.2 million in revenue from ticket sales during the January-May period this year, also up 38 percent year-on-year, the report added. — Xinhua

CHIKANGAWA MOUNTAIN RANGE



Malawi vice president, nine others killed in plane crash

LILONGWE: Malawi Vice President Saulos Chilima and nine other people, including his wife, were killed as the plane they were onboard crashed in the Chikangawa mountain range, according to media report, citing the government.

Malawi President Lazarus Chakwera declared Tuesday a national day of mourning. The announcement was made in a statement released by the Office of the President and Cabinet.

The statement reads, unfortunately, all on board have perished in the crash, which happened on Monday morning after the military aircraft took off from Malawi’s capital Lilongwe.

Saulos Chilima and others onboard the aircraft were travelling to attend the funeral of Malawi’s

former attorney general when their plane dropped off the radar, according to CBS News report.

Due to poor visibility

Air traffic officials said the plane was not able to land at Mzuzu airport, about 200 miles north of Lilongwe, due to poor visibility, and the pilot had been advised to head to the capital when the flight disappeared.

In a televised address on Monday night (local time), Chawera said that the search and rescue operation would continue until Chilima’s plane was found. He said, “I know this is a heart-breaking situation,” adding that, “and we are all frightened and concerned.”

Several nations, including the US, provided technological sup-

port to Malawi in the search operation, CBS News reported. In a statement posted on X, the US Embassy in Lilongwe said it was “deeply concerned by the news of the crash” and added an offer of “all available assistance including a Defense C-12 aircraft.”

Chilima (51) was seen in Malawi as a possible contender for the presidential election set to be held in 2025. Earlier in 2022, he was arrested on graft allegations, amid reports that he had received kickbacks from a businessman for government contracts. However, the charges were denied by Chilima, the report said.

Earlier in May, the charges against Saulos Chilima were dropped by the national prosecutor, who registered a notice for the discontinuation of the case. — 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 Tender Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2024/067	CONSTRUCTION OF Tanker filling Stations in (Ashur, Garziz and Raysut) in Wilayat Salalah and Taqah	25/06/2024	09/07/2024	105.000
DISC/2024/068	11 KV & LV NETWORK IMPROVEMENT WORKS- 2024 (Lot-01)	25/06/2024	09/07/2024	52.500
DISC/2024/070	Construction of Al Houtah Desalination Plant, Transmission Pipeline, Booster Stations, Tanks and Associated Works in Wilayat Rakhyut	04/07/2024	18/07/2024	2625.000
DISC/2024/071	DRILLING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WATER SUPPLY WELL AT JOT IN TAQAH	25/06/2024	09/07/2024	52.500
DISC/2024/072	drilling and construction of water supply well at Madinat Al-Haqq in Taqah - 2024	25/06/2024	09/07/2024	52.500

- To purchase the tender document website via the link or the Barcode below: https://supplier.nama.om:4443/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XTEN_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 "supplier 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.

Nama Dhofar Services Company
P.O.Box: 2609, P.C.: 211, Salalah, Sultanate of Oman
Phone Number: +968 23232523 - Fax: 23201183
www.dhofarservices.nama.om

SPORTS

FIFA chief announces countdown to World Cup



ZURICH: FIFA President Gianni Infantino said he is “counting down the days” with exactly two years to go until the FIFA World Cup 2026 kicks off.

In a statement posted on the FIFA’s website, the FIFA President said that the 23rd edition of the FIFA World Cup, which starts on 11 June 2026 at the iconic Estadio Azteca Mexico City, would be “the greatest event, the greatest show, the greatest tournament” that the world has ever seen. It will also be the most inclusive FIFA World Cup ever, featuring a record 48 teams and hosted by 16 cities across three countries, Canada, Mexico and the United States, he added.

The Estadio Azteca Mexico City one of three venues in Mexico along with Estadio Monterrey and Estadio Guadalajara will make history at the tournament, having also hosted the opening matches of the FIFA World Cup in 1970 and 1986.

“It will be the first stadium to host three inaugural (FIFA) World Cup football matches,” said the FIFA President. “We’ve never seen this before, and to experience it at an iconic stadium like the Azteca is something very, very special.” “We all know the epic games, (FIFA) World Cup games, that have been played there in the past, absolute champions like Pele and Diego Maradona who played and won at the Azteca,” he said.

The FIFA President said that preparations were well on course across the three Host Nations. “In the Host Cities, of course, we are working with the authorities, with the stadium owners and operators, with the local communities,” he said.

“(There is) fantastic collaboration everywhere. They are looking forward to millions and millions of fans from all over the world,” Infantino said. Upcoming 2026 milestones include qualifying draws in both Asia and Oceania. -OHA

Mehran Khan’s spectacular journey in T20 World Cup

One player who has emerged as a standout bowler is Mehran Khan

Ashok Purohit

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA: Oman’s thrilling journey at the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2024 is all but over with their hopes of advancing extinguished after a hat-trick of losses in West Indies.

However, one player who has emerged as a standout bowler is Mehran Khan. Amidst the fierce competition and heart-pounding moments, Mehran’s exceptional bowling performances have captivated audiences worldwide, showcasing not only his skill but also his unwavering determination to leave an indelible mark on the cricketing world.

Mehran’s name is among the list of top wicket-takers after the World Cup has witnessed 22 matches so far across four groups comprising 20 nations.

Mehran has stood out as a formidable force in Oman’s bowling lineup. With a presence exuding quiet confidence and a smile that conceals his competitive fire, the 37-year-old medium pacer has made a significant impact on the field. His tally of six wickets places him among the top five bowlers in the tournament, a testament to his skill and consistency.

Afghanistan’s left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi, who claimed a five-wicket haul against Uganda, leads the table of the highest wicket-takers with nine wickets from two matches and is followed by South Africa’s pacer Anrich Nortje with eight.

At the third spot there are three bowlers including Mehran with six wickets each. The other two are West Indies’ left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein and Afghanistan’s spinner Rashid Khan.

Except for Mehran and Nortje who have featured in three matches each, the rest have played two



games so far. India’s Jasprit Bumrah, who was the star of India’s win over Pakistan on Sunday, is next best with five wickets from two games.

Mehran’s bowling has also been rated as one of the most impactful performances so far. According to ESPNcricinfo, with Farooqi is on top with a score of 190.1 in the bowling impact category. At second spot is Mehran, who with a score of 146, is ahead of Bumrah with 128.7. The rating of most impactful bowlers is measured not only by the wickets taken and economy rate but also of the pressure under which these performances happened.

Mehran’s show has been one of the highlights of Oman in Group B at the ongoing World Cup, but the all-rounder admitted that these figures and bowling would have been sweeter had the team won.

“I would have been happier had we won the matches. We went close in the opener and to lose in a Super Over against Namibia was heart-breaking as we had them on the back foot,” said Mehran.

The experienced campaigner, who has been recalled in the national squad late last year after a gap of four years, justified the faith of head coach Duleep Mendis and produced one of the most memorable spells against Namibia.

Mehran returned with dream

figures of 3/7 and led to defend the meagre total of 109 and force a tie and a Super Over. The spell against Namibia was his career-best in the 40 T20Is he has played since his debut Oman against Afghanistan in July 2015.

“We could have even won the match against Namibia but for the fumble off the last delivery behind the wickets that allowed [David] Wiese to steal a single off a bye,” he said.

Namibia needed a comfortable 18 runs off 18 balls with as many as seven wickets in hand before Mehran delivered a wicket maiden to start a streak of 18 deliveries that almost turned the tables on Namibia to result in a Super Over

After his 18th over, Mehran returned to defend five runs in the final over with an economy of 2 and claimed two wickets and conceded only four to force a tie. Namibia won the Super Over but Mehran’s spell earned plaudits all across the cricketing world.

His tidy line and length and ability to pull back his length came in handy against the mighty Australia. Mehran not only shone with the ball but made an enterprising 27 off 16 balls against the Aussies forging a crucial partnership with Ayaan Khan in the chase of 164/5. Mehran had the Aussies in a spot as he struck twice off successive

balls to get rid of their skipper Mitchell Marsh and Glenn Maxwell in the ninth over of the game. He was on a hat-trick and nearly had the star performer Marcus Stoinis caught at the boundary in the 15th over, a drop that will haunt Oman for long.

Stoinis’ hoick off a length ball to long off had Ayaan Khan take a superb catch back pedalling but he failed to keep his balance and tumbled over the ropes with the ball for a six.

Looking back, Mehran said: “It was the turning point of the match. We had them in the knots as they were 80/3 and had the catch been taken, it would have put pressure on them.”

He finished with 2/38 and was the bowler when skipper Ilyas came up with one of the best catches of the tournament to dismiss Maxwell.

In the match against Scotland, which Oman lost by seven wickets, Mehran picked his sixth wicket of the tournament when he had opener George Munsey caught at short backward point by Shakeel Ahmed for 41.

Over the three games, Mehran’s presence has been remarkable, an achievement given the fact that he was out of the national squad from 2019 to 2023.

Speaking on his experience in the World Cup, Mehran said: “It

is a dream to play a team like Australia. I played against a Test-playing nation for the first time. They are former world T20 champions and to perform against that side is a proud moment for me.”

He added “I picked three wickets against Namibia and carried the momentum to pick two more against Australia. I even had a chance of claiming a hat-trick. We could have kept Aussies to a much lesser total but for the dropped chances.”

Mehran said: “Our mistakes allowed Australia score 164 but we learn from such mistakes. It has been a learning experience for us. We may have lost three matches, but we have shown the world that we can fight at the biggest stage.”

The medium pacer said Oman will go into the final match against the defending champions England with nothing-to-lose approach. “We played the first game in Antigua and couldn’t utilise the conditions, but we have assessed it now. We hope to put up a good show against England.”

In the grand narrative of T20 cricket, Mehran’s journey is a testament to perseverance and skill. As he continues to leave his mark on the international stage, his performance at the 2024 World Cup will certainly go down as a memorable one for Oman.

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by August 2024 reaching \$81.89, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.67 from the price of Monday, which was \$80.22. - OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) general index (30) dropped 13.2 points, comprising a decline by 0.28 per cent to close at 4696.21 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 4709.41 points.

Passengers travelling through Oman's airports rise to 4.9mn

The total number of flights landing and departing from the airports of the Sultanate of Oman by the end of April 2024 reached 31,708, according to preliminary statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information

MUSCAT: The total number of passengers through the airports of the Sultanate of Oman by the end of April 2024 reached 4,901,796.

Meanwhile, the total number of flights landing and departing from the airports of the Sultanate of Oman by the end of April 2024 reached 31,708, according to preliminary statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information.

The number of passengers through Muscat International Airport by the end of April 2024 reached about 4,430,119, comprising an increase of 16.8 per cent, of

which 4,097,728 were international passengers and 332,391 were domestic passengers.

The number of flights through Muscat International Airport by the end of April 2024 reached 32,520, of which 29,862 were international flights and 2,658 were domestic flights.

Indians topped the number of passengers through Muscat International Airport by the end of April 2024, with 89,206 passenger arrivals and 83,855 passenger departures, followed by Bangladeshi nationality with 12,829 incoming passengers and 20,597 departing



passengers, and Pakistani nationality with 21,191 arriving passengers and 19,532 departing passengers.

The number of passengers through Salalah Airport reached

429,181, comprising an increase of 9.9 per cent, who travelled on board 3,122 flights, an increase in flights by 9.9 per cent. The number of international flights through Salalah Air-

port reached 1,660, carrying 214,934 passengers, while the number of domestic flights reached 1,462, with 214,247 passengers on board.

The number of passengers

through Sohar Airport reached 22,390 on 192 flights, while the number of passengers through Duqm Airport reached 20,106 on 208 flights. -OMA

APPOINTMENT

Shangri-La Muscat appoints Deepak Mehta as new Director of Finance

MUSCAT: Shangri-La Muscat announced the appointment of Deepak Mehta as the resort's new Director of Finance.

Deepak joins the team from the St Regis Maldives, having previously served as Director of Finance at Shangri-La New Delhi, and brings a wealth of experience to the role, with almost two decades' work in financial management in the hospitality industry. A Chartered Accountant by training, Deepak Mehta's financial acumen, leadership skills and in-depth industry knowledge have opened doors to executive roles at some of the world's most prestigious hotel brands, with a particular focus on the APEC region.

"I am delighted to be returning to the Shangri-La Group, and in particular, to be joining the team in Muscat, which is at an exciting point in its growth," said Deepak Mehta. "I look forward to working with the executive and finance teams to optimise the property's systems and strategies and support the development of Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah and



Shangri-La Al Husn."

Deepak's detail-oriented expertise will be instrumental in fine-tuning the financial management strategy of the complex, which boasts 640 rooms and suites.

Nick Flynn, the resort's Hotel Manager concluded, "Deepak will be a fundamental executive member, strengthening the resort's financial planning and analysis capacities and ensuring compliance across the board. Hence facilitating revenue growth and significant improvements to costs and efficiency, resulting in an enhanced financial performance that aligns with the complex' strategic business plan."

ACHIEVEMENT

State Audit Institution recognised by UN for Innovative Complaint and Report Window

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) announced the inclusion of Oman's State Audit Institution's Complaint and Report Window among the best distinguished Arab practices within the ESCWA-launched ENACT project.

ENACT aims to accelerate the use of technology and innovation for enhanced operations in Arab public institutions by collecting successful and distinguished studies from various Arab States regarding innovative technologies and initiatives in place to develop and improve government services.

The window was chosen from among 60 distinct initiatives from 12 Arab countries listed in the ESCWA Arab Open and Innovation Government Portal.

As part of its endeavours to keep pace with the era of technology and digital transformation to achieve Oman Vision 2040 objectives and Goal 16 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which calls for peace, justice and strong institutions, the institution has been keen to develop the provided service through the window and improve it via the SAI website and smartphone application in Arabic



and English, to effectively communicate with society, strengthen the principle of partnership in protecting public fund and ensure the quality of performance in line with digital transformation and technology requirements.

The window contributes to fostering community outreach and receives various complaints and reports related to administrative and financial irregularities and

violations against public funds, and then the Institution deals with such complaints and reports with high professionalism.

It is worth noting that the Window won the United Nations Public Service Award in the category of Preventing and Fighting Corruption in 2013, reflecting the efforts exerted by the Institution in protecting public funds. In addition, the window was recently

developed, where submitting complaints was separated from submitting reports, giving greater flexibility and confidentiality to whistleblowers.

OTP feature and complaint reference number were also added. The Institution is constantly working to improve and develop the window to add ChatBot features to enhance bridges of communication with the community.

THIRD CONSECUTIVE WIN

Al Mouj Muscat wins Office Development of the Year at Oman at Real Estate Asia Awards

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its position as leading developer of the year, Al Mouj Muscat (AMM) has secured a victory at the Real Estate Asia Awards 2024, earning the title of Office Development of the Year - Oman for its Business Park. Competing against a number of developers, this marks AMM's third consecutive win at the awards. This accolade highlights the excellence and innovative design of the Business Park, strengthening AMM's reputation in the real estate sector.

Nasser Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, said, "We are proud to win at the Real Estate Asia Awards for the third year, with our first-time recognition in the business development category. This award is a testament to our commitment to excellence and innovation in the real estate sector. We are dedicated to creating spaces that enable local businesses to grow and thrive



within our expanding economy. Our Business Park reimagines the possibilities of modern business, offering a hi-tech working environment that supports both well-being and productivity."

The state-of-the-art Business Park is celebrated for its eight standalone buildings set across two districts - three in Business Park East and five in Business Park West,

combining G+2 and G+3 structures that integrate seamlessly with natural landscapes. Built to exacting grade A standards, the buildings are separate yet seamlessly connected by beautiful landscaped gardens and outdoor spaces, designed for business networking. The complex offers 39,000 square meters of office space, with flexible floor plans and access to basement car parks

The award underscores Al Mouj Muscat's innovative design and excellence in office developments

with between 115 and 148 spaces per office block.

Recognized as one of the most prestigious awards in the region, the Real Estate Asia Awards celebrate excellence in the Asian real estate sector. Each year, an independent panel of industry experts evaluates entries based on design, quality, service, innovation, originality, and commitment to sustainability. Now in its fourth year, the awards continue to highlight outstanding projects and companies that are setting new benchmarks and making significant contributions to their communities.

CASABLANCA SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT



Morocco commences construction work on largest seawater desalination plant on African continent

RABAT: Morocco announced the start of construction work on a seawater desalination plant in the west of the country, the largest of its kind on the African continent, with an annual production capacity of 300 million cubic meters.

The Maghreb Arab Press (MAP) said that the Casablanca seawater desalination plant pro-

ject will be completed in two phases. Upon its completion, the plant will serve about 7.5 million people.

The plant will be built on a 50-hectare site for 6.5 billion dirhams (Moroccan currency) and will supply the cities of Casablanca, Settat, Berrechid, Bir Jdid, and the surrounding regions with drinking water. -OMA

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Al Anwar Ceramics, up 9.71 per cent, was the top gainer while Barka Desalination, down 4.76 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,696.21 points, down by 0.28 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.17 per cent at 459.04 points. Al Anwar Ceramics, up 9.71 per cent, was the top gainer while Barka Desalination, down 4.76 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1122 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR4.01 million, with more than 19.9 million shares changing hands. Out of 54 traded securities, 18 advanced, 19 declined, and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR1749,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR1518,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR231,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,768.35 points, down 0.57 per cent. Prices of Al Sharqia Investment, Al Anwar Investment, Sohar International Bank were up by 3.85 per cent, 1.14 per cent, 0.73 per cent respectively. Prices

of Bank Nizwa, National Bank Oman, Oman Arab Bank, Al Madina Takaful, Ominvest were down by 2.75 per cent, 2.30 per cent, 1.29 per cent, 1.27 per cent, 0.26 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,050.58 points, up 1.54 per cent. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Al Maha Ceramics, Construction Materials, Raysut Cement, A'Saffa Foods were up by 9.71 per cent, 9.52 per cent, 7.14 per cent, 2.99 per cent, 1.75 per cent respectively. Prices of Gulf International Chemicals, Muscat Thread Mill, Gulf Mushroom Products were down by 2.22 per cent, 0.99 per cent, 0.89 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.27 per cent before closing at 1,778.25 points. Prices of National Gas, Al Maha Marketing, Muscat Gases, Phoenix Power, Dhofar Generating were up by 9.09 per cent, 5.39 per cent, 3.70 per cent, 1.75 per cent, 1.37 per cent respectively. Prices of Barka Desalination, Musandam Power, Shell Oman Marketing, Renaissance Services, Al Jazeera Services were down by 4.76 per cent, 3.70 per cent, 2.47 per cent, 2.11 per cent, 2.00 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

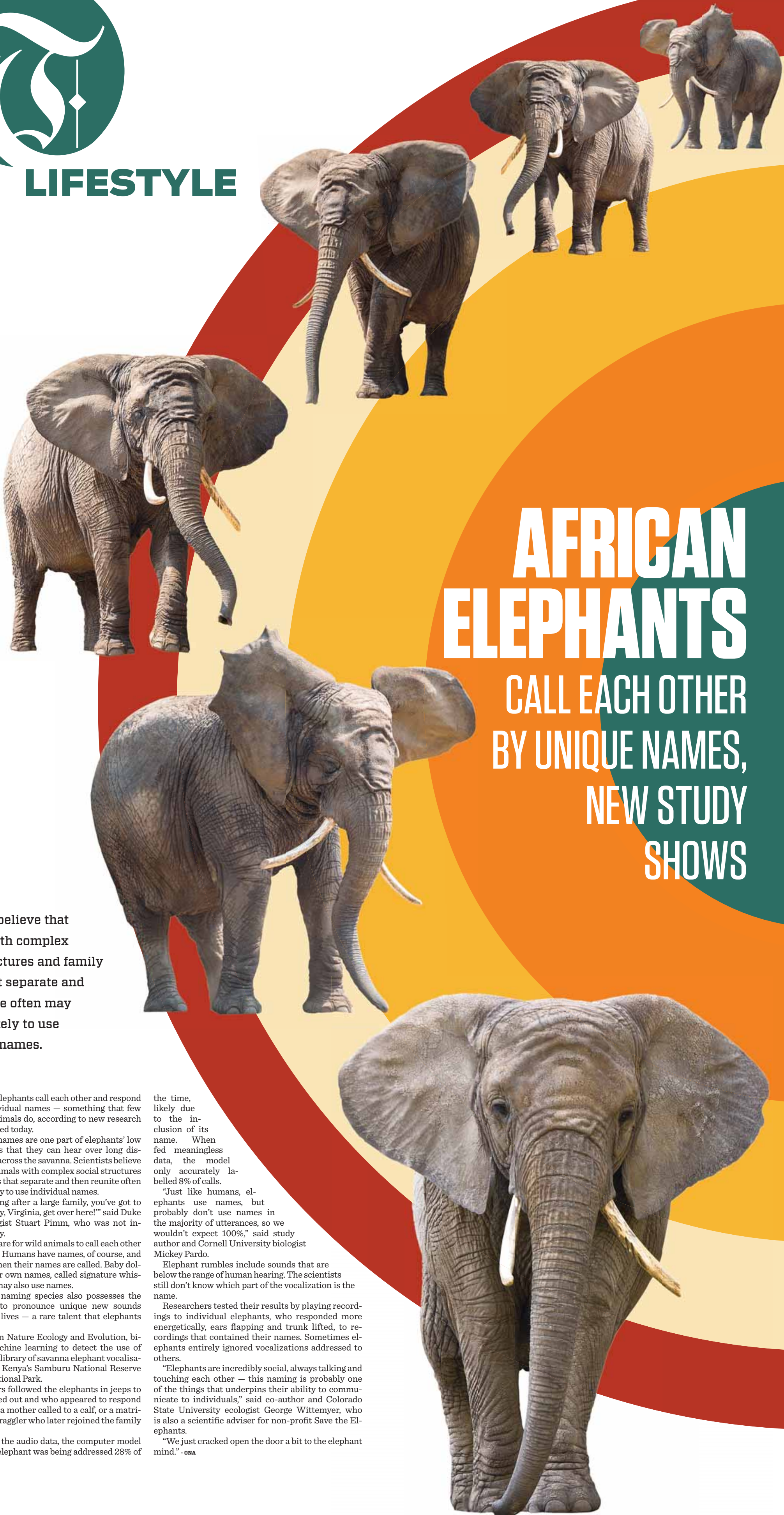
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
Industry Index	6,050.58	5,974.28	6,050.58	5,958.77	91.81	1.54
Services Index	1,784.38	1,774.05	1,778.25	1,773.42	4.83	0.27
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,933.38	8,803.94	8,906.11	8,856.82	-50.71	-0.57
SERVICES TR IDX	2,069.34	2,057.36	2,062.23	2,056.64	5.60	0.27
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	0.00	0.00
MSX Shariah Index	462.16	458.99	459.04	459.80	-0.77	-0.17
MSX TR INDEX	6,608.63	6,521.06	6,521.06	6,539.38	-18.33	-0.28
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,880.62	7,766.44	7,768.35	7,813.08	-44.74	-0.57
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,980.93	6,892.90	6,980.93	6,875.00	105.93	1.54
MSX 30 INDEX	4,759.28	4,696.21	4,696.21	4,709.41	-13.20	-0.28

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
19,907,817	4,008,480	1,122	24,296,175,260	18	19	17	54

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 11

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAV VALUE	MARKET CAP		
REGULAR MARKET																		
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	2,065,950	392,573	108	0.180	0.192	0.180	0.192	0.175	0.017	9.714	0.192	0.192	0.192	0.100	42,240,000		
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	1,195,345	96,243	67	0.082	0.082	0.079	0.081	0.078	0.003	3.846	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.100	7,290,000		
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	21,650	8,249	4	0.380	0.407	0.372	0.407	0.400	0.007	1.750	0.407	0.372	0.407	0.100	48,840,000		
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	140,408	10,531	14	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.001	1.351	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.100	53,580,476		
OM0000001132	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	9,879	1,142	4	0.115	0.116	0.115	0.116	0.115	0.001	0.870	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.100	17,400,000		
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	728,987	100,379	32	0.137	0.138	0.137	0.138	0.137	0.001	0.730	0.138	0.128	0.138	0.100	769,659,985		
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	27,102	2,250	3	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.100	10,237,500		
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	6,980,336	1,752,207	86	0.251	0.252	0.251	0.251	0.251	0.000	0.000	0.251	0.251	0.251	0.100	1,884,105,663		
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	138,013	9,661	8	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.069	0.070	0.100	14,000,000		
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	52,214	3,759	8	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.100	45,591,895		
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	190,998	198,764	54	1.047	1.047	1.037	1.040	1.041	-0.001	-0.096	1.040	1.040	1.041	0.100	780,000,000		
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	4,360	1,652	3	0.379	0.379	0.379	0.379	0.380	-0.001	-0.263	0.379	0.371	0.379	0.100	253,310,496		
OM0000003968	COFREDOO	79,783	23,448	55	0.294	0.295	0.292	0.294	0.295	-0.001	-0.339	0.293	0.293	0.294	0.100	191,377,604		
OM0000003934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,120,806	327,607	72	0.293	0.295	0.292	0.292	0.293	-0.001	-0.341	0.292	0.292	0.292	0.100	224,898,400		
OM0000009072	QQ GAS NETWORKS	968,363	136,796	201	0.141	0.142	0.141	0.141	0.142	-0.001	-0.704	0.141	0.141	0.145	0.100	610,617,793		
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	164,155	12,805	15	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.078	0.079	-0.001	-1.266	0.078	0.077	0.078	0.100	13,650,000		
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	8,834	2,533	16	0.374	0.374	0.371	0.371	0.379	-0.008	-2.111	0.371	0.371	0.380	0.100	8,770,110		
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	28,100	7,278	16	0.260	0.260	0.255	0.255	0.261	-0.006	-2.299	0.255	0.255	0.260	0.100	414,616,321		
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	100	79	1	0.790	0.790	0.790	0.790	0.810	-0.020	-2.469	0.790	0.790	0.875	0.100	75,050,000		
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	21,262	5,574	8	0.266	0.266	0.260	0.260	0.270	-0.010	-3.704	0.260	0.255	0.260	0.100	18,301,400		
Total	30	13,944,615	3,093,530	775														
Parallel Market																		
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	398,013	71,714	65	0.172	0.184	0.172	0.184	0.168	0.016	9.524	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.100	10,120,000		
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	1,044,588	99,988	70	0.096	0.096	0.090	0.096	0.088	0.008	9.091	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.100	8,160,000		
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	11,000	493	3	0.043	0.045	0.043	0.045	0.042	0.003	7.143	0.045	0.040	0.045	0.100	2,812,500		
OM0000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	150	161	1	1.075	1.075	1.075	1.075	1.080	0.005	5.392	1.075	0.000	1.075	0.100	74,175,000		
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	1,495	210	3	0.140	0.143	0.140	0.140	0.135	0.005	3.704	0.140	0.134	0.140	0.100	4,200,000		
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	3,340,599	573,082	75	0.171	0.174	0.171	0.174	0.171	0.003	1.754	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.100	35,319,642		
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	56,900	3,300	6	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.057	0.001	1.754	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.100	84,830,885		
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	6,050	445	2	0.071	0.074	0.071	0.074	0.073	0.001	1.370	0.074	0.071	0.074	0.100	16,445,760		
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	115,000	10,235	5	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.088	0.001	1.136	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.100	18,334,000		
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	637	306	2	0.480	0.483	0.480	0.483	0.480	0.003	0.625	0.483	0.000	0.000	0.100	24,132,160		
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	10,000	12,150	6	1.215	1.215	1.215	1.215	1.215	0.000	0.000	1.215	1.200	1.215	0.100	60,750,000		
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	19,891	935	2	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.047	0.051	0.100	14,435,877		
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	40,400	2,312	8	0.058	0.058	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.057	0.062	0.100	4,845,000		
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	292,242	43,836	4	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.150	0.165	0.100	352,448,620		
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAH	45,000	7,125	3	0.165	0.165	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.000	0.000	0.163	0.163	0.165	0.100	458,414,770		
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	53,000	16,727	6	0.319	0.319	0.315	0.315	0.315	0.000	0.000	0.315	0.310	0.315	0.100	25,641,866		
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	200	15	1	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.074	0.078	0.100	11,510,730		
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	1,583	351	1	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.224	-0.002	-0.893	0.222	0.222	0.225	0.100	10,160,007		
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	8,312	831	4	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.101	-0.001	-0.990	0.100	0.099	0.109	0.100	1,639,411		
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	33,108	5,111	7	0.155	0.155	0.153	0.153	0.155	-0.002	-1.290	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.100	265,419,730		
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	10,134	1,203	4	0.119	0.119	0.118	0.118	0.120	-0.002	-1.667	0.118	0.117	0.125	0.100	59,596,218		
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	4,150	1,016	3	0.241	0.245	0.241	0.245	0.250	-0.005	-2.000	0.245	0.241	0.250	0.100	14,995,047		
OM0000003028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	799	66	1	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.090	-0.002	-2.222	0.088	0.081	0.088	0.100	1,848,000		
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	53,796	5,702	14	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.109	-0.003	-2.752	0.106	0.106	0.107	0.100	237,117,021		
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	35,450	3,217	8	0.091	0.091	0.090	0.090	0.093	-0.003	-3.228	0.090	0.091	0.091	0.100	18,100,000		
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	200	24	1	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.126	-0.006	-4.762	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.100	9,962,640		
Total	26	5,582,667	860,559	305														



AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

CALL EACH OTHER BY UNIQUE NAMES, NEW STUDY SHOWS

Scientists believe that animals with complex social structures and family groups that separate and then reunite often may be more likely to use individual names.

African elephants call each other and respond to individual names — something that few wild animals do, according to new research published today.

The names are one part of elephants’ low rumbles that they can hear over long distances across the savanna. Scientists believe that animals with complex social structures and family groups that separate and then reunite often may be more likely to use individual names.

“If you’re looking after a large family, you’ve got to be able to say, ‘Hey, Virginia, get over here!’” said Duke University ecologist Stuart Pimm, who was not involved in the study.

It’s extremely rare for wild animals to call each other by unique names. Humans have names, of course, and our dogs come when their names are called. Baby dolphins invent their own names, called signature whistles, and parrots may also use names.

Each of these naming species also possesses the ability to learn to pronounce unique new sounds throughout their lives — a rare talent that elephants also possess.

For the study in Nature Ecology and Evolution, biologists used machine learning to detect the use of names in a sound library of savanna elephant vocalisations recorded at Kenya’s Samburu National Reserve and Amboseli National Park.

The researchers followed the elephants in jeeps to observe who called out and who appeared to respond — for example, if a mother called to a calf, or a matriarch called to a straggler who later rejoined the family group.

Analysing only the audio data, the computer model predicted which elephant was being addressed 28% of

the time, likely due to the inclusion of its name. When fed meaningless data, the model only accurately labelled 8% of calls.

“Just like humans, elephants use names, but probably don’t use names in the majority of utterances, so we wouldn’t expect 100%,” said study author and Cornell University biologist Mickey Pardo.

Elephant rumbles include sounds that are below the range of human hearing. The scientists still don’t know which part of the vocalization is the name.

Researchers tested their results by playing recordings to individual elephants, who responded more energetically, ears flapping and trunk lifted, to recordings that contained their names. Sometimes elephants entirely ignored vocalizations addressed to others.

“Elephants are incredibly social, always talking and touching each other — this naming is probably one of the things that underpins their ability to communicate to individuals,” said co-author and Colorado State University ecologist George Wittemyer, who is also a scientific adviser for non-profit Save the Elephants.

“We just cracked open the door a bit to the elephant mind.” - ONA

SPORTS

Markram’s gamble on Maharaj pays off as SA seal win over Bangladesh

On a surface that has favoured pacers throughout the tournament, Markram handed the ball to spinner Khehav Maharaj to defend 11 runs

NEW YORK : In the battle of unbeaten sides, South Africa prevailed over Bangladesh in a final ball thriller at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium on Monday (local time) and took a step closer to qualifying for the Super 8 stage.

It was a game that was decided by a gamble played by South Africa skipper Aiden Markram in the final over. On a surface that has favoured pacers throughout the tournament, Markram handed the ball to spinner Khehav Maharaj to defend 11 runs.

Markram’s gamble paid off as the experienced spinner removed Jaker Ali and Mahmudullah to



successfully defend the lowest total in the history of the competition and seal a 4-run win. Both batters tried to clear the boundary and on both occasions, Markram was present to complete the catch before the ball crossed the rope.

In a low-scoring chase of 114, Bangladesh got off to a slow start

as they attempted with a different opening duo Tanzid Hasan and captain Najmul Hossain Shanto.

Bangladesh lost both openers to Anrich Nortje and Kagiso Rabada in 6.1 overs with only 29 runs on the board. Litton Das and Shakib Al Hasan fell cheaply but Towhid Hridoy and Mahmudullah forged

a 44-run stand to take Bangladesh towards victory.

Rabada raised hopes of a comeback by removing in-form Hridoy. The momentum shifted in favour of South Africa and Maharaj stood up in the clutch moment to seal a four-run win for the Proteas.

Earlier in the innings, a fiery

three-wicket haul from Tanzim Hasan Sakib and two scalps by Taskin Ahmed helped the Tigers restrict Proteas to 113 while keeping things tight in the death overs.

South Africa won the toss and opted to bat first against Bangladesh at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York.

Nevertheless, even after Quinton de Kock scored 10 runs off of the first three balls of the game, the Tigers had the best of the first few overs. Tanzim Sakib and Taskin Ahmed rocked the Proteas top-order on a better surface in New York.

Most of the damage was done in the powerplay by Tanzim Hazan Sakib, who took out Reeza Hendricks (0 off 1), De Kock (18 off 11), and Tristan Stubbs (0 off 5). Taskin Ahmed also contributed, cleaning up captain Aiden Markram for 4.

After the burst of early wickets, South Africa was down 25/4 after the first six overs, but Heinrich Klaassen and David Miller handled the charge, eyeing another rescue job. Miller and Klaassen stitched up the 79-run stand, clawing their way back into the match in New York. David Miller rescued the innings once again, this time forging a partnership with Klaassen. The duo batted slowly on what was a two-paced wicket with some spongy bounce.

Klaassen took the odd chance against spin but this time pacer Ahmed came back to strike, removing 46. Bangladesh kept things tight in the death to keep the target to just 114.

Brief score: South Africa 113/6 (Heinrich Klaassen 46, David Miller 29; Tanzim Hasan Sakib 3-18) vs Bangladesh 109/7 (Towhid Hridoy 37; Keshav Maharaj 3-27, Anrich Nortje 2-17). -ANI

ATP RANKINGS



Sinner dethrones Djokovic to bag World No 1. rank

LONDON: Jannik Sinner on Monday climbed to World No 1 in the ATP Rankings, becoming the first Italian to achieve the feat.

With this historic feat, the 22-year-old became just the 29th player since the rankings’ inception in 1973 to climb to World No 1.

The Italian also dethroned the 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic for World No 1 ranking with 9,525 points, meanwhile, the Serbian dropped to two spots to third position (8,360) after he withdrew before his quarter-final clash in Paris due to injury.

Sinner will need to adjust swiftly to his newfound status as World No 1. Three of Sinner’s closest challengers in the PIF ATP Rankings -- Djokovic, Carlos Alcaraz, and Daniil Medvedev -- have all previously held the top spot in men’s tennis, and Sinner will know he must push for more

success if he is to hold them at bay for long.

The 21-year-old Carlos Alcaraz moved one place up to second after his French Open 2024 triumph. Alcaraz became the second-youngest clay-court major champion since 2000, at the age of 21.

Following his victories on hard courts at the 2022 US Open and on the grass at the 2023 Wimbledon, 21-year-old Alcaraz became the youngest player to win a Grand Slam championship on three separate surfaces with his four-hour, 19-minute victory on the Paris clay.

The Australian Alex de Minaur has returned to the top ten after reaching his second major quarterfinal in Paris. De Minaur, who got to the final eight at the US Open in 2020, defeated Daniil Medvedev in Paris for his second Top 5 win this season. -ANI

BATTLE OF UNBEATEN SIDES

This is the match we should have won, Bangladesh captain after defeat against S. Africa

NEW YORK: Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said his side was confident of winning the match against South Africa as batter Jaker Ali was at the crease however things did not go as planned for the Tigers in the last over of the match when they needed 11 runs off 6 balls.

In the battle of unbeaten sides, South Africa prevailed over Bangladesh in a final ball thriller in the T20 World Cup at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium on Monday (local time) and took a step closer to qualifying for the Super 8 stage.

Shanto feels that his side should have won the match but said South Africa bowled well in the last couple of overs.

“Everyone was nervous but were confident when Jaker was there. It didn’t happen but that’s okay. Tanzid really worked hard last couple of games, we needed new-ball wickets and he showed his character. This is the match we should have won, we nearly did but in the last couple of overs they bowled well,” Shanto said in a post-match presentation.

The Bangladesh captain mentioned they are lucky to have him “very good” player Rishad Hossain and said the bowler work hard, showing his skills.

“This is the match we should have won, last couple of overs they bowled really well. It can happen in cricket. (Rishad) He is very good, the way we bowled last couple of series, he practised very hard. We’ve struggled with leg-spinners over the last 10-15 years



so we’re lucky we got one. Hopefully, he can continue. Thanks to all the supporters, hopefully, they’ll come to the West Indies as well,” he added.

Coming to the match, it was a game that was decided by a gamble played by South Africa skipper Aiden Markram in the final over. On a surface that has favoured pacers throughout the tournament, Markram handed

the ball to spinner Khehav Maharaj to defend 11 runs.

Markram’s gamble paid off as the spinner removed Jaker Ali and Mahmudullah to successfully defend the lowest total in the history of the competition and seal a 4-run win. Both batters tried to clear the boundary and on both occasions, Markram was present to complete the catch before the ball crossed the rope. -ANI

KOOPMEINERS

Netherlands midfielder ruled out of Euro 2024



AMSTERDAM: The Netherlands have suffered another setback ahead of the Euro 2024 and will travel to Germany without midfielder Teun Koopmeiners from Europa League champions Atalanta.

“The midfielder won’t be able to participate after he injured himself during the warm-up of the match against Iceland yesterday,” the national team said today.

Koopmeiners played a strong season with Atalanta and was a regular player under Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman.

On Monday, the Netherlands had already announced that midfielder Frenkie de Jong was ruled out of tournament due to injury.

Barcelona’s de Jong suffered an ankle injury in the derby against Real Madrid last April and had to be carried off the pitch. Since then, the 27-year-old has been in rehab, fighting for a place at the Euro 2024.

In response to the absence of the two players, Koeman called up Borussia Dortmund’s Ian Maatsen. He was part of the pre-Euro squad but was dropped from the group. The Netherlands start the Euro 2024 against Poland on Sunday. -ANI

UPCOMING EURO 2024

Probably won’t be here if...,” England head coach drops major hint about his future

NEW DELHI [INDIA]: England head coach Gareth Southgate admitted that his departure from the national team is likely if they fail to win the upcoming Euro 2024 in Germany.

Southgate assumed the role of head coach of the England football team in 2016. Since his arrival, the Three Lions have roared in the top tournaments but have returned empty-handed.

Southgate’s contract is set to run down at the end of this year. With less than five days left before the commencement of the tournament, the English manager opened up about his future with the team.

“If we don’t win [the Euros], I probably won’t be here anymore. Then it might be the last chance.

I think about half of the national coaches leave after a tournament -- that’s the nature of international football. I’ve been here for almost eight years now and we’ve come close,” Southgate told German newspaper Bild as quoted from ESPN.

In a reign that has lasted for more than seven years, England managed to reach the Euro 2024 final, semi-final of World Cup 2018 and quarter-final of the World Cup 2022.

The 53-year-old is aware of the need to deliver on the big state to establish England as a big team and for himself as a top coach.

“So I know that you can’t keep standing in front of the public and saying: ‘Please do a little more,’

because at some point people will lose faith in your message,” Southgate said.

“If we want to be a big team and I want to be a top coach, then you have to deliver in the big moments,” he added.

Placed in Group C, England will begin their Euro 2024 campaign against Serbia at the Veltnis-Arena in Gelsenkirchen, Germany.

England 26-player Euro 2024 squad:

Goalkeepers: Dean Henderson (Crystal Palace), Jordan Pickford (Everton), Aaron Ramsdale (Arsenal)

Defenders: Lewis Dunk (Brighton & Hove Albion), Joe Gomez (Liverpool), Marc Guehi (Crystal Palace), Ezri Konsa (Aston Villa),

Luke Shaw (Manchester United), John Stones (Manchester City), Kieran Trippier (Newcastle United), Kyle Walker (Manchester City)

Midfielders: Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool), Jude Bellingham (Real Madrid), Conor Gallagher (Chelsea), Kobbie Mainoo (Manchester United), Declan Rice (Arsenal), Adam Wharton (Crystal Palace)

Forwards: Jarrod Bowen (West Ham United), Eberechi Eze (Crystal Palace), Phil Foden (Manchester City), Anthony Gordon (Newcastle United), Harry Kane (Bayern Munich), Cole Palmer (Chelsea), Bukayo Saka (Arsenal), Ivan Toney (Brentford), Ollie Watkins (Aston Villa). -ONA



Bank Muscat celebrates relocation of Jaalan Bani Bu Ali branch

The relocated branch is characterised by a large space and a modern design considering the latest standards of the banking sector, the most important of which are security and safety standards and the use of modern technologies harnessed to serve customers

MUSCAT: In enhancement of its pioneering role in providing the best banking services and facilities and developing the branches network distributed across the governorates, Bank Muscat, the lead-



ing financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, celebrated recently the official relocation of its branch in Jaalan Bani Bu Ali in Sharqiya South Governorate. The inauguration ceremony was held under patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Humaid Al Ghabshi, Wali of Jaalan Bani Bu Ali, in presence of Executive Manage-

ment members, officials, and a number of customers. The relocated branch is characterised by a large space and a modern design considering the latest standards of the banking sector, the most important of which are security and safety standards and the use of modern technologies harnessed to serve customers. It

also offers a wide range of diverse banking services and products to meet the growing requirements of customers. The services provided by the branch can be availed during weekdays from Sunday to Thursday starting from eight in the morning until two noon. On this occasion, Taya Eid Bait Sabeea, Deputy General Manager

– Regional Branches, Bank Muscat, expressed his pleasure with the official relocation of Jaalan Bani Bu Ali branch. He clarified: “The new place is more spacious and is located in a vital area inside the wilayat to meet the growing needs of the residents through a wide range of products and facilities. I urge our dear customers to visit the rede-

signed branch and benefit from the special services it offers.” The Deputy General Manager – Regional Branches added that Bank Muscat is keen to continue developing its branch network as a key pillar of its long-term strategy, aiming to improve the quality of services, and provide the best solutions and innovative banking products. He confirmed: “The Bank will continue, in the coming period, to update and develop its existing branches, and add new branches to its network in order to enhance its leadership in the sector. I would like to extend thanks and appreciation to our valued customers for their continued confidence in the services the Bank provides.” As a leading financial services provider, Bank Muscat has an extensive network of 183 branches for retail and corporate customers and more than 870 devices, including ATMs, CDMs and omnichannel devices distributed in all governorates. The Bank is keen on developing products, offering exclusive offers and benefits that provide added value to customers, including personal finance, auto finance, housing finance, and credit and debit card services. In addition, the Bank strives to provide high quality services to priority and privilege banking customers and continue developing them to meet their aspirations.

PARCEL SERVICE CAMPAIGN



‘Travel Light, Enjoy the Sights’ this Khareef with Oman Post

MUSCAT: With the kickoff of the Khareef season, Oman Post, the national postal operator, launched “Travel Light, Enjoy the Sights” this Khareef with parcel service campaign aiming to make travelling to Dhofar more convenient and enjoyable. The service allows customers and SMEs to reliably ship their

luggage and parcels by simply visiting the nearest Oman Post branch and receiving them hassle-free at the Oman Post branches in Dhofar. Each parcel can weigh up to 30kg, and customers may track their parcels and request proof of delivery for added convenience. With a wide delivery network

locally, regionally, and internationally, Oman Post, part of Asyad Group, complies with the best international standards while delivering to over 190 countries and territories. As part of its strategy, Oman Post aims to provide exceptional customer service through the delivery of innovative and practical solutions.

SIGNIFICANT

Lulu Financial celebrates milestone with 350th global customer engagement centre

DUBAI: Lulu Financial Holdings, a leading global financial services provider, opened its 350th global customer engagement centre in Dubai on Tuesday. This milestone highlights the company’s rapid growth and the success of its omnichannel strategy, which seamlessly integrates physical and digital platforms to offer an exceptional cross-border payment experience. The new customer engagement centre was also the 135th under Lulu Exchange, the company’s UAE division. The 350th global customer engagement centre at Satwa, Dubai was inaugurated by Alfonso Ferdinand A. Ver, the Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the UAE. The inauguration taking place on the eve of the Philippines Independence Day lent added significance to the occasion, with the company dedicating the milestone ceremony to the Filipino community. “It is a pleasure to be part of the inauguration of Lulu Financial Exchange’s 350th global customer engagement centre here in Dubai, particularly as it coincides with the eve of the Philippines Inde-



pendence Day,” said Alfonso Ferdinand A. Ver. “This event not only marks a significant milestone for Lulu Financial Holdings but also underscores the enduring and growing bond between the company and the Filipino community.” “The inauguration of our 350th branch in Dubai represents a significant milestone in our journey of growth and innovation,” said Aadeb Ahamed, Managing Director of Lulu Financial Holdings. “Our growth is a clear indicator that our approach is resonating with customers. We remain com-

mitted to innovation and excellence, providing our customers with reliable and convenient financial solutions.” Since its inception in 2009, Lulu Financial Holdings has expanded to a global presence with operations in over 10 countries. The company is now at the forefront of the digital transformation of the financial services sector through its offerings such as the Lulu Money App, the company’s flagship digital payments solution, which has consistently been ranked among the top remittance apps in UAE.

STRENGTHENING CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP

BankDhofar expands its presence in Al Dakhiliyah governorate with new branches in Nizwa and Bahla



MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to be closer and strengthen relationship with customers, BankDhofar recently inaugurated two new branches in the Al Dakhiliyah governorate. The first branch is located in Jibreen, Wilayat of Bahla, and the second at the Sultan Qaboos Acad-

emy of Police Sciences in Nizwa. As the second largest bank in the Sultanate of Oman by the number of branches, at a total of 123 branches, the bank also operates 360 ATMs, multi-use cash deposit machines, and multi-service interactive machines. Notably, customers can perform banking transac-

tions via ATMs using just their mobile phone numbers, eliminating the need for a card. The Jibreen branch and Sultan Qaboos Academy of Police Sciences branch will provide specialized services to the SME sector. The Bank is offering specialised Al Rifaa preferred banking, Al Ria-



dah priority banking services. The Jibreen branch was inaugurated by His Excellency Sheikh Saeed bin Ali Al-Salaf Al-Nuaimi, Wali of Bahla State. The Sultan Qaboos Academy of Police Sciences branch was inaugurated by Lieutenant Colonel Said Salim Al Manaai Director of Ad-

ministrative and Financial Affairs at the Academy. BankDhofar is dedicated to implement digital enhancements through significant investments in technology based on customers evolving needs and ensure an enhanced user experience. Through its mobile banking ap-

plication, customers can manage accounts, pay bills, transfer money, and invest in various financial products. The bank’s “Intilaqaah” application allows customers to open savings accounts without visiting a branch and provides instant transfers to any other bank in Oman instantly.

ROUND-UP

NBO launches first-of-its-kind innovative Eid note dispensing machines in five locations

The machines will dispense 100 Baisa and 500 Baisa notes, addressing the high demand for these denominations during the festive season

MUSCAT: As a testament to its commitment to providing a seamless digital banking experience, The National Bank of Oman (NBO) is set to launch five Eid note dispensing machines across Oman this month.

This innovative service, available exclusively to existing NBO customers, will be introduced at five digital branches: the NBO Head Office, Sohar Branch, New Salalah Branch, Ibra Branch and Bahla Branch. The machines will

dispense 100 Baisa and 500 Baisa notes, addressing the high demand for these denominations during the festive season.

Dr. Ali Salim Al Shekaili, Assistant General Manager – Head of Digital & E-Channels at NBO, commented on this initiative: “At NBO, we recognise the challenges individuals face in obtaining Eidiya notes during Eid due to the high demand. Hence, we introduced this service, the first of its kind in Oman,

to provide a seamless experience for our clients and meet their needs effectively. Our Eid note dispensing machines also represent a significant advancement in our digital banking capabilities, underscoring our dedication to enhancing customer experience through cutting-edge solutions.”

This launch follows the successful unveiling of the trial version of the Eid note dispensing machine at COMEX 2024, held at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre (OCEC). The machine was unveiled by His Excellency Taher bin Salem Al Amri, Executive President of the Central Bank of Oman, in the presence of Abdullah Zahrani Al Hinai, Chief Executive Officer of NBO.

With the launch of the Eid note dispensing machines, NBO continues to lead the way in providing cutting-edge banking solutions as part of its digital transformation strategy.



WIDER NETWORK

Saud Bahwan Group inaugurates new Chery showroom in Sohar creating exciting employment opportunities for Omanis



MUSCAT: Recently Saud Bahwan Group inaugurated Chery's new showroom in Sohar, thereby in a short time, increasing Chery's presence in Oman to three.

Present at the occasion was Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Busaidi, Wali of Sohar and distinguished guests from the public and private sectors.

The showroom in Sohar offers automotive enthusiasts an impressive range of Chery vehicles that are equipped with the latest features and technology promoting some of the finest driving experiences.

Speaking on the occasion, a representative from Saud Bahwan Group said, “Saud Bahwan Group is focused on offering some of the finest products and services that customers will love. On its journey to establish a wider network

of Chery showroom in Oman, the Group has also offered exciting employment opportunities to talented Omanis, whilst also making investments in sales and service facilities, contributing to Oman's growing economy.”

Sharing his thoughts on the partnership between Chery Automobile and Saud Bahwan Group he said, “Chery's passion for quality and advancements in features and technology makes owning a Chery vehicle absolutely delightful. This when combined with Saud Bahwan Group's strengths promotes Chery ownership experiences to even greater levels.”

The event showcased a range of Chery vehicles offering customers an opportunity to get close to their favourite Chery vehicle and learn more about its high quality build

and range of advanced features and technology.

Chery's car range in Oman consists of an impressive line-up of the TIGGO8 PRO MAX, TIGGO4 PRO, and ARRIZO6 PRO. The Tiggo8 Pro Max and TIGGO4 are power-packed high-impact SUVs with subtle ambient lighting and unmatched fuel efficiency.

The sedan-styled Arizzo6 pro dons a sleek front and rear profile, impressive interiors and high-end modern technology offering enhanced safety and usability features. Redefine your lifestyle choices with Chery's commitment to providing an unparalleled driving experience for the driver and the passenger.

The holistic design and the 360-degree usability features of the cars are meticulously

engineered for an enthralling road journey.

Customers can now visit the Sohar showroom to get a hands-on experience with the Chery vehicles. The showroom hosts modern amenities, product displays and a dedicated sales and marketing team to cater to the customer's needs.

Kantar and Google jointly released the 2023 Chinese Global Brand Builders. Chery is ranked as the best Chinese global brand builder in cars and 14th in the overall list and its brand power has achieved strong growth.

Chery Automobile secured the first spot among all Chinese automotive brands in J.D. Power 2023 China Initial Quality StudySM (IQS).

In Oman, Chery vehicles are distributed by Saud Bahwan Group.





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